Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-88-233 *5 December 1988*

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Central American Presidents Agree on Summit
PA0212150588 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1032 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 2 Dec (EFE)—The presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala agreed today to hold a joint meeting on 15 January in San Salvador to continue with efforts to achieve peace in Central America.

In statements to the media, the presidents pointed out that in the January "summit", they will discuss mechanisms for peace, and verification by a regional security force.

"There are strong hopes of reaching an arrangement," Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said. He stated his government will continue supporting the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega asserted that President-elect George Bush will have to modify the policies promoted by President Reagan against Nicaragua following the victory of the revolution.

All the presidents who attended the inauguration of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari emphasized that their countries have good relations with Mexico.

Similar remarks were voiced by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who appeared to be worried about an attempted rebellion by a squad of marines who left their garrison yesterday.

In a brief statement, Alfonsin said this was "nonsense," and that it was unimportant.

Concerning the issue of the Latin American foreign debt—a problem that Salinas de Gortari emphasized in his inaugural speech—the Nicaraguan president somewhat voiced the feelings of others when he said the debt is a problem "that all Latin American countries are enduring," and he emphasized that the people must be united in this struggle. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Castro Says Negotiations on Angola Advanced

FL0312034088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro asserted today in Mexico that negotiations between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa are very advanced and arrangements are being made for the signing of a final agreement. In a conversation with Mexican deputies and senators, Fidel said agreements have been reached in almost everything but noted that the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is a matter between Cuba and Angola exclusively.

According to the progress made in the quadripartite talks, with the United States as mediator, Cuban troops will withdraw from Angola in a 27-month period while the South African forces should leave Namibia in only 7 months, said Fidel. Later, Fidel insisted that the agreement is close, but patience is needed. He added that Cuban troops will return to the island when Angola's security is guaranteed.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with over 80 intellectuals from Mexico and other countries with whom he talked about various subjects. He mainly reminisced about the "Granma" yacht landing in Cuba. Intellectuals such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Mexican Professor Pablo Casanova, painter Jose Luis Cuevas, and Guatemalan writer Luis Cardosa y Aragon attended the gathering in Mexico.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro talked with those present for over 2 and ½ hours remembering his achievements in Mexico 32 years ago, when he prepared the Cuban revolution, and giving details of that feat. Fidel also talked with the intellectuals on human rights, freedom of expression, and other important matters.

Havana Confirms Gorbachev's Visit From 9-12 Dec

FL0312020488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, will visit our country from 9 to 12 December at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Visit a Milestone

FL0212221088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Soviet Foreign Ministry said today it is certain that Mikhail Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Cuba will constitute a milestone for bilateral relations and that current levels will expanded even more. In an assessment of Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Havana, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy asserted that Gorbachev's meeting with President Fidel Castro will be a continuation of traditional summit meetings held between the two countries.

The Soviet leader's tour through the United Nations, Cuba, and the United Kingdom considered by Moscow officials as a reflection of a responsible and realistic policy in a interrelated world, stated Petrovskiy. Assessing the outlook of the tour, the Soviet deputy foreign minister said Gorbachev will explain at the United Nations his country's position on the most significant international matters.

People To Welcome Gorbachev

FL0312002588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0007 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Rebelde's "Exclusivo" newscast has been able to confirm that top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will arrive in our country between 9 and 12 December. It must be noted that the report was confirmed in Moscow. Top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should arrive in Havana between 9 and 12 December—that is, this month. The Havana people are preparing to give him a great welcome on behalf of the entire country.

Castro Meets With Mexico's Salinas de Gortari

FL0212134688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] President Fidel Castro and the new Mexican leader, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, met last night for 1 hour in the official residence of Los Pinos. The two statesmen broached matters of intercontinental interest, in particular the situtation in Central America, and the serious foreign debt problem. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation—as it should be for the historic relations between Cuba and Mexico.

Fidel began his meetings and political talks yesterday morning when he attended a breakfast he was invited to by Colombian President Virgilio Barco. Afterwards, Fidel attended the presidential inauguration ceremony at the Legislative Palace of Mexico. Later on, he lunched with the President of Argentina, Raul Alfonsin—a meeting which was termed very satisfactory for the two parties. According to reports, Fidel and Alfonsin, examined subjects such as Latin American integration, the current aspects of the foreign debt, and the situation in Central America, among other matters.

In the afternoon, the Cuban president met with Edwise Avice, French minister delegate of foreign affairs. They essentially discussed Latin American matters, such as the importance of attending these events and the need to take steps forward in continental integration.

Upon leaving the hotel, Fidel was cheered by the people who had gathered outside. He signed an autograph for a Mexican boy sitting on his father's shoulders.

Political figures commented to the press that Fidel Castro's presence in Mexico reaffirms that, with each passing day, Latin American unity is crystallizing.

The foreign minister of Colombia, Julio Londono, said that Fidel's visit is in line with the rapprochement that Cuba is making with Latin America and vice versa. Londono recalled that his country has expressed the need for all the states to be present in the inter-American system.

The Guatemalan foreign minister, Alfonso Cabrera, for his part, termed Fidel's visit as very positive. His Costa Rican colleague, Rodrigo Madrigal emphasized that Cuba and Mexico maintain a permanent and close relation as evidenced by Fidel's presence. Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister, said that Fidel's presence is evidence that Cuba's isolation, imposed by the United States, is coming to an end. He added that all Latin Americans, in particular the Mexicans, are very happy with Fidel's visit to that country. Jorge Ritter, Panamanian foreign minister, said that Fidel's presence completely satisfies all Latin Americans—we who are exceptional witnesses to the fact that Cuba can no longer continue being isolated. Jaime Pasa Mora, lader of the Bolivian Leftist Revolutionary Movement, termed Fidel's visit as far reaching and historic.

Meanwhile, Cuban sources denied reports that Fidel and the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz were going to meet in the Mexican capital. Rumors to that effect have been circulating since last Wednesday, and eventually surfaced yesterday.

Meets PRI Legislators

FL0312014888 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2332 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro noted today the need for Latin American governments to meet, without exception, to find a solution to the foreign debt and other problems which widen the gap with developed countries. If we want to arrive to the year 2000 with a future, we have to solve the problems of the crisis and not wait to carry out a revolution when we can solve them together now. The commander in chief said this to senators, deputies, and governors of Mexican states. Fidel began his 3d day of his visit in Mexico—where he arrived on 30 November—with a meeting with a group of PRI legislators. The chiefs of the two chambers were among them. The meeting was held at the Cuban Embassy.

He praised the energetic tone of the new Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari when, in his inauguration speech, said the interest of Mexicans is above the interests of creditors. The meeting coincided with the 32d anniversary of the landing of the "Granma" yacht in which Fidel and a group of revolutionaries arrived on the coast of Cuba from Tuxpan, Mexico to begin the heroic Cuban revolution.

The Cuban president asserted that as a result of the 1910 revolution—he was referring to the Mexican revolution—Mexican governments have been able to achieve more than others on this continent. He said relations between Cuba and Mexico are very good, very warm, and have withstood the test of time.

Other Activities Reported

FL0312030888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 88

[By Nelson Notario Castro from Mexico City]

[Excerpts] In the last few hours, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who has been visiting the sister country of Mexico since last Wednesday, met with new Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. He also attended a dinner hosted by the Mexican chief of state in honor of his distinguished guests.

The conversation between the chief of the Cuban revolution and President Salinas de Gortari was a private one and lasted almost 1 hour. Although the nature of their discussion was not disclosed, it could be seen that there was understanding and friendship in their dialogue because of the smiles on their faces.

Later, President Fidel Castro attended the dinner given by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for his distinguished guests. [video shows Castro with other Latin American officials posing for pictures]

On Friday morning, Cuban President Castro held a fraternal meeting with senators and deputies of the PRI at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

[Begin recording] [Castro seen greeting various PRI officials]

[Guillermo Jimenez Morales, PRI leader at the Chamber of Deputies, identified by caption] Commander Fidel Castro, it is a true honor for our country to have you among us. We feel you are part of us, sir. We know that in your young years you were here in our country. You shared with men and women the social vindication thinking of the Mexican nation. We were commenting with the senators, governors, and deputies that your presence stimulates our country's struggle to give each Mexican the dignity he deserves as a citizen of our country. It is a privilege to have you here in Mexico.

[Castro] Thank you very much. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Later, they held a question and answer session and over 2 and ½ hours of discussion. They wanted to know about our country's economic plans, our greatest achievements, the sugarcane harvest, ports, the fight against

illiteracy, Mexican-Cuban relations, the institutionalization of the country, the Latin American economic situation, [words indistinct], social situation of our women and children. It was a smooth and friendly conversation, among brothers.

[Begin Castro recording] They have to solve the foreign debt problem and the new economic order problem. It is not possible to continue on this path and [words indistinct]. Foodstuffs exporters themselves, in 1985, had to give twice as much goods to buy the same amount of things; twice as much sugar, coffee, or other basic goods. Twice as much to acquire half.

How did Latin American trade grow? Well, exports in 1987 were more or less the same exports of 7 or 8 years ago. But one says that exports amounted to $88 billion. What is a dollar now? [words indistinct] dollar of 1980, 1981, 1982. They are worth 40 percent less. Latin American exports amounted to $69 billion, dollars that are worth less. So the problem is that there must be a will from the leaders. They need to say: Let's get together and demand that this debt be resolved. [end recording]

The commander in chief told them it would be worthwhile to talk for 15 or 18 hours, but that other commitments had to be met. In sum, this was a beautiful day.

The following commitment was a meeting between Fidel and intellectuals and friends here in Mexico City. [passage omitted]

Meets Political Leaders

FL0311125488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro yesterday met separately in Mexico with legislators, leaders of different Mexican leftist opposition parties, and intellectuals.

Speaking before deputies, senators, and governors of Mexican states, Fidel stressed the need for Latin American governments to meet without any exclusions to find a solution to the foreign debt and other problems which widen the abyss between Latin America and developed nations. Fidel said: If we want to begin the year 2000 with a better future, we have to solve the problems of this crisis and not wait to start a revolution when we can resolve this now, united.

The meeting took place at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico and Fidel, in his gala uniform, stood for more than 2 hours answering questions from his guests. He said that Washington does not want Latin American countries to join together and Latin American leaders should be willing to confront this, not for immediate integration, but to take steps in that direction. He said that it would be much more important to affirm that the Group of Eight is speaking on behalf of all of Latin America. He said that in his contacts with other chiefs of state, he spoke to them about the need to unite and present a joint position for the entire region.

In his meeting with leftist opposition leaders, Fidel clarified that it was his duty to visit Mexico and it would have been political cowardice to not have done so. He added that he is not making the trip for reasons of national interest, but, to find solutions to continental problems. Basically, he said, things cannot be done only when it is pleasant and easy to do so. Our relations with Mexico are historic, he said, and strategy cannot be sacrificed for tactics nor can we blockade ourselves. He then asked: How can we have the morale to call for unity if we do not go where we are invited?

In his meeting with more than 80 Mexican intellectuals, Fidel discussed several topics, such as the landing in Cuba of the "Granma" explorers.

Castro Notes Importance of Weapons Factory

PA0212174788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the inauguration of the Ignacio Agramonte weapons factory in Camaguey Province on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] Comrades of the Soviet delegation, guests, workers, and leaders of the Ignacio Agramonte Weapons Factory in Camaguey, people of Camaguey:

Eight years ago, what we see here now—these marvelous installations, this group of young workers—was only a dream, an idea. Exactly 8 years ago, we experienced threats against our homeland and our revolution because of the warmongering and aggressive policy of a U.S. Administration that claimed our revolution had to be swept from the face of the earth.

Although for many years we had been making great efforts to organize and develop the country's defense, and although for many years we received many weapons from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries—but basically from the Soviet Union—those weapons were not enough for the plan we needed to defend the country with the participation of all the Cuban people. That plan is known as the war of the entire people.

Those needs, risks, and threats, as well as the basic response to those needs and threats, required millions of weapons, millions of weapons [Castro repeats himself]. In other words, we practically needed one weapon for each Cuban man and woman who was able to fight.

It is true that thanks to foreign cooperation and the increasing shipments of light weapons that we received from the Soviet Union during that period—especially during the first few years of that period when the Soviet Union sent us hundreds of thousands of light weapons—

and thanks to other weapon shipments, the few purchases we made, and the local fabrication of mines, grenades, and so on, we succeeded in obtaining enough weapons for millions of people.

We had all kinds of weapons. We had weapons that were used at the beginning of the war in the Soviet Union during the fascist aggression. We received bolt-action rifles and the famous PPSh [Soviet-made submachine-guns], which we know so well and which were immortalized during the Soviet Union's war of the fatherland. Other kinds of rifles arrived in Cuba, including all types and makes of Soviet rifles that were made during, at least, the last 50 years. I am not sure, bit we may even have some rifles from the time of the October Revolution. We received all kinds of weapons. For us all weapons are useful, including sports weapons. The famous [word indistinct] rifles. We began with those weapons. Most of the weapons we had on 26 July 1953 were [word indistinct] rifles like those that are being used at firing ranges to train our citizens. In case of war, we would use even those rifles, as well as shotguns and even knives and machetes. We would use anything that can be used for the country's defense.

However, the idea of manufacturing light weapons for our defense—as I was saying—was only a dream. Of course, such an idea would not have been possible without the USSR's generous cooperation. The USSR has much more experience than we do; much more experience in everything having to do with the mechanical industry and the production of weapons. We used Soviet cooperation to build this factory. We began building it in 1981. Today, we are here—not to begin production, because this factory has already been working and producing—to officially inaugurate a plant that has been completed and that has a large number of workers. The plant is producing, and the proof of this is this rifle, which has been completely manufactured in this plant.

The first rifles that were manufactured in this plant were not totally manufactured here. At first, we started by putting together components that came from the USSR. However, this rifle that we have here today is a rifle that has been completely manufactured here—all of its 200 parts or components. I do not know if the number of components is a military secret. [laughter] Sometimes, we have military secrets that everyone knows. [applause] Oh well, secrets must be guarded in one's heart. That is where the enemy cannot see or even guess with all of his satellites and espionage. He cannot see what one carries in one's heart, in the minds of each revolutionary, of each patriot; that is the essence of our strength. [applause]

Each one of the small parts in this rifle has been manufactured in this factory, and each of us must feel very satisfied about this. What is our production capacity? There is no secrecy involved. Each shift is capable of manufacturing 100,000 rifles. [as heard] All this in a single shift. [applause]

I thought: We are currently commemorating a number of anniversaries. We are commemorating the 30th anniversary of several armed actions carried out during the final phase of our struggle against the tyranny. I saw this rifle and remembered our impatience, better still, our eagerness to get weapons. We had no way of getting weapons, except by taking them away from the enemy—taking their weapons and ammunition during combat.

This is how we waged our war; 90 percent of the weapons we had in the end had been taken away from Batista's Army, 90 percent of the weapons. That was our story. I thought for a moment about our rifles—only a few automatic rifles, because most were bolt-action rifles, plus the rifles we took from the enemy—and how sometimes we had to repair them.

I remember some of our guerrilla forces' rifles; some were automatic rifles which had no firing pin because it had been lost, and the rifle did not work. We did not have a single piece of metal to manufacture that firing pin. In some cases we used hard wood to manufacture the rifles' firing pins, and it worked. I thought: Had we had the rifles you manufacture in 1 day, we would have won the war against Batista in no time at all. [applause]

In 1 day [Castro chuckles] you manufacture 300-350 automatic rifles. Imagine, 350 rifles! You have no idea what this means. I will not claim that 300 men.... [changes thought] Those 300 rifles would have quickly multiplied; 10, 20, 30 times as much—I do not know how many times. Our few bolt-action rifles would have increased in number; at least 30 times as much. Imagine what would have happened if we had used this type of weapon in that kind of war! I asked Comrade Luis [not further identified] what would have happened if we had used this type of weapon in that kind of war. I asked Comrade Luis what was the [name indistinct] rifle's firing speed. I later told him that we had carried out several firing drills in which a 40-round ammunition clip was fired in approximately 3 seconds. We conducted some tests to find out what three soldiers could do by firing long bursts with 40-round ammunition clips or by firing single shots. A truckful of soldiers could be annihilated in a matter of seconds using three of these rifles.

The rifles have a tremendously high firing speed and a high rate of accuracy. As I said: If in those days we had what this factory produces in 1 day, [Castro chuckles] we would had solved our problems during the war.

I mention this because it gives an idea of how much ground we have covered, it shows how much we have progressed from the days when our guerrilla Army had only a few automatic weapons, when it had no way to repair its rifles, when it had to make its own rudimentary grenades, mines, and so forth. Today, we have a factory for this. This means we have come a long way. Well, that is what we can say about weapons, about what this industry means for our defense; what it means for our country to have a factory of this size and quality.

However, we must not only look at it from that angle. We must look at the importance of this factory from another angle. I recall that when we were trying to decide where this plant would be located, we initially chose Camaguey. In our desire to establish industries in the interior of the country, we have always, for many years, basically stressed that new industries should be established in the country's interior. We decided to limit new industry in the capital to what is necessary for the people, such as a dairy factory, or expanding a plant or an industry where there are raw materials available, or to produce construction material; that type of industry. The idea, however, has been to build as many industries as possible in the country's interior.

We saw then that Camaguey had become the third largest city in the country, that it had approximately 200,000 inhabitants at that time. How many people? [word indistinct] back in those days it had more than 200,000 inhabitants. We knew this would be a large industry, so we thought it would be a good idea to establish it in Camaguey, and from the beginning we decided it would be built in Camaguey. We had confidence in the people of Camaguey, in its workers and youth. We knew this city could provide very well the necessary personnel for an industry that would require thousands of workers.

Looking at it from that angle, this industry is a good thing for the province; and it provides excellent, rewarding, and highly technical jobs for thousands of young men in Camaguey. It it also a matter of pride for the people of Camaguey, as undoubtedly this is the country's most modern mechanical plant. [applause] This is best-equipped mechanical plant in the country.

I would say this plant can be called a jewel of the mechanical industry. [applause] In fact, looking at it from another angle, the mechanical industry has the most highly qualified personnel all over the country. [applause] I would say [words indistinct] the director, who said the plant has 451 high-level graduates, hundreds and hundreds—760—of midlevel technicians, and thousands of skilled workers. No mechanical plant in the country has that [type of] labor force. If we add [applause] if we add [Castro repeats himself] that the [workers'] average age is 24, everyone would understand that no other mechanical plant in the country, possibly no other industry ... [Castro changes thought] I am sure there is no other mechanical plant that has such a young labor force. [indistinct slogan, crowd responds: "Viva!"]. What we have here is a true promise. Having already seen what this plant produces—with organization and quality—what will this plant not produce? What will not emerge from this plant in the years to come as you acquire more and more experience?

We could analyze this industry from another viewpoint. It is the national viewpoint. This industry cannot just be analyzed from a military stance. Instead, it can be analyzed from the viewpoint of what the march toward the country's industrialization means. There was no mechanical industry in Cuba before the revolution. The revolution practically created the mechanical industry. Without the mechanical industry, there can be no development.

Before the revolution, there were a few workshops. Not too long ago we inaugurated a medical supplies factory. That factory was built in an area where horseshoes used to be made.

The revolution has built new mechanical plants. There is one in Santa Clara and another in Antillana de Acero. Plants producing steel for construction have also been built. We are also developing the automobile industry. We produce quite a few buses in Guanajai; not all that we need, but production is gradually increasing. Of course, we had to import spare parts at the beginning, but now we have designed our own engine; we will soon finish a plant that will produce engine blocks, a most important spare part. This plant will be capable of producing from 10,000 to 12,000 engine blocks a year. The country already has an engine plant; it is still not 100-percent made here, like your rifles are. This is not easy, as engines require many different parts, and in some cases it may be more efficient to import these parts. However, we already produce the main spare parts for buses and trucks.

We built a combine factories in [words indistinct] in Holguin, which produces 600 combines annually. This mechanical plant produces combines and sugarcane harvesters. This plant is of great importance, of truly strategic importance for Cuba, because during the first years of the revolution we used to hire 350,000 cane cutters to harvest sugarcane. We had to move several thousands of cane cutters to Camaguey alone. Nowadays, Camaguey does not need cane cutters from other provinces to harvest its sugarcane.

During the capitalist era, cane cutters used to come from other provinces to harvest sugarcane. Today, the number of cane cutters has been reduced to approximately 70,000; we have reduced the total number of cane cutters by approximately 300,000. This is of course thanks to a series of... [changes thought]. This has been possible thanks to a mechanization process, to the storage centers, and to the mechanical elevators, but primarily thanks to the Holguin sugarcane combine, which has been meeting its goals for years. It began with the ktp-1, and it is already producing the ktp-2, which is a better machine. They are now working on the plans for the ktp-3, which has a greater production capacity. This example alone gives you an idea of the importance of the mechanical industry. In front of the ktp-1 factory is the factory producing agricultural tools, which is another big, modern factory.

The mechanical industry is not devoted to a single field. In Moa, for example, along with the Che Guevara plant, a great mechanical factory has been constructed to produce the spare parts and components necessary for the nickel industry.

I spoke to you about Santa Clara earlier. I failed to mention that modern parts for sugar mills are being built in Santa Clara. When we build a sugar mill, not less than 60 percent of the parts are manufactured in the country, and the Santa Clara mechanical plant is where most of these sugar mill factory parts are built. This plant not only produces parts for the sugar industry; the 200-t rolling mill, which will be inaugurated tomorrow in Las Tunas, was produced by the Santa Clara mechanical plant. [applause]

If we had to purchase the equipment for this rolling mill, it would have cost us at least $20 million. Instead, we only needed to spend about $1.7 million—buying electrical parts, some motors, and certain components. The rest was made in the country—designed by Cuban engineers, built by Cuban technicians and workers—and it is a great plant. The first rolling mill may produce 90,000 to 100,000 steel rods each year, and already work has been started on the second rolling mill. The main parts did not come from abroad but were made in the country. We could mention other mechanical plants, such as those that produce irrigation suction pumps. In Granma, trucks are repaired and rebuilt. There are dozens of mechanical industries in our country, but not all of them are new. Basically, these are the new ones. The mechanical industries in the capital were developed in old repair shops.

I recently met with workers from 55 Havana City mechanical plants to discuss their various problems. Workers from four mechanical plants in Havana Province also participated. We saw that all those plants are in old buildings. Some, in fact, are very old buildings. Some of those buildings have roofs made of zinc and cement. Workers operate in very difficult physical conditions. Machines are piled up in corners because those buildings have no storage space. Workers work in difficult conditions.

We, of course, cannot do without those industries. They provide many things. Some make trucks or dumpsters, which are used for dump trucks. Some make forklifts and carts. Others build various types of construction equipment, boilers, and parts for machines and construction equipment.

It would be a real dream if we could say all those plants, which developed in old buildings throughout the revolution, which we must repair, improve, reorganize; and where we must install automatic lathes, air conditioning; and where we must build a place for the lathes and set the right temperature so the lathes can operate ... [changes thought] It is very hard to work under those conditions.

Those plants are not like new enterprises, like the medical equipment plant we recently inaugurated in Havana, or like the medical equipment plant we inaugurated in Santiago de Cuba this year. These new ones are plants that we planned and designed and into which we incorporated all the necessary conditions a mechanical plant should have.

I know the situation at the Havana City enterprises. The working conditions are very difficult, because of the factors I just mentioned, because those industries are located in old buildings, and have old workshops that have slowly become [word indistinct].

From that viewpoint, there is no doubt the working conditions of this plant we are inaugurating today are truly marvelous, truly marvelous [repeats himself]. In other words, everything this plant has, which was designed and built in an overall manner... [changes thought]. This plant has everything it needs.

It has an adequate roof. I was told this roof does not leak. This illustrates that this roof must have been built well and on a certain incline. I do not trust flat roofs. Our country does not have the weather for flat roofs. We must have enough incline so water can run off the roofs. We have had some bad experiences with flat roofs, such as the one in the textile plant in Santiago de Cuba. That plant had problems, because it was designed with a flat roof. I am aware other textile plants have similar problems with the rain leaking. Here we have created ideal working and industrial conditions.

Before coming here, we visited the polyclinic [words indistinct]. That polyclinic is a small jewel within a larger jewel. This plant is offering very good care to its workers with this polyclinic. [applause] It is an important part of the plant's capacity, both of the capacities of the [3-second reception break] 186 young students. In other words, this plant became a mechanical industry school. It became a university school. It has all the necessary conditions, including cafeterias and kitchens to cook meals. Students also have the advantage of having the fields nearby. They have no less than 80 hectares to produce food for the plant's workers. They might not have everything, but at least they have enough to produce food for the plant's workers. If you are good farmers, one cannot tell what you could get from 80 hectares. Perhaps you would even have a surplus and will be able to supply some small markets or something. The truth is 80 hectares is a lot of land to plant orchards and produce food.

But, above all, there is the human aspect of this industry. There are the supplies, work, and housing commissions of the workers that—working together with the factory—have built a town. This is no ghost town, as were some that had no roads or schools and that lacked everything. On another occasion, I had the opportunity to visit the mini-district. Actually, it is not so mini, as the housing will be very good, with all the necessary recreational facilities. Today I saw the model of the mini-district's sports facilities, the basketball courts, other sports fields, swimming pools—I believe there will be an Olympic-size

pool—and others. It is very nice to think that the workers can have adequate housing. Some will live far away, some in the city, but in general, these workers will not have any housing problems. They will be able to live in this district as a family. They will have everything a district needs for satisfying the people's needs, not only the workers' needs, but also their relatives.

Some think there will be too many housing units. Not really—I believe 180 units are being built this year. Next year, another 250 will be built. We will have to increase speed so we can build the 3,000 housing units we want for this mini-district. That is why I was saying that, from this viewpoint, everything that has to do with taking care of mankind is basic. This factory has been planned, built, and developed in an ideal manner. I do not believe there is any other factory in the country that was developed like this factory. I think we can honestly say this is a model for everything. You were saying you wanted to be a model socialist factory. I believe the way we have to work in socialism is the way in which the general plans and programs of this factory have been carried out.

Socialism is not capitalism. People are starving to death in capitalism. There might be some more developed forms of capitalism, but these are developed forms of capitalism that are looting the rest of the world. For centuries, the Third World countries worked as colonies for that form of capitalism. Capitalism is still looting the Third World. Then there is the capitalism of the exploited countries of the Third World. Cuba was not an industrialized country. Cuba was a Yankee neocolony, that is the truth. Conditions in our country were very difficult. Whenever a factory such as (Icaro) was built, the Yankees built 80 or 100 housing units for the managers, the top engineers, and no more. Thousands of workers went there looking for a job. There was no housing for them. The workers built shacks. They lived in huts, in very poor shelters.

Before the revolution, you did not have to call anyone to come work in a factory. People showed up by themselves looking for a job because there were over 500,000 unemployed in a country of 6.5 million people. That was the situation at the time of the revolution. That is why no one imported a piece of machinery prior to the revolution. Anyone who tried to import machinery was killed. The people, the sugar workers would have protested because the machinery would have replaced them. Unemployment was a true scourge. At that time, the capitalists built factories but not housing units. Today, we have to recruit workers early, train them, and prepare them in schools and at the industrial plant itself, as was done here. Here, we must solve social problems. It would be insane to build a plant like this one, even if it were close to the city, without first solving the social problem, the housing problem of the workers. Those are the investments the revolution must make in any large industry. We could not even conceive of the nickel plants in Moa without building thousands of housing units. In Moa, we have been building around 1,000 housing units per year. One year, over 1,000 units were built. I cannot remember if the program called for 800 or 900 housing units for the workers of the old and new factories.

We could not conceive of the development of Moa without this. Without this, we could not conceive the development of the power plant in Cienfuegos. There is an entire community there for the workers. We could not conceive the industrial development at Cienfuegos, or the power plant, or the petroleum refinery at Cienfuegos without building hundreds of housing units for all of these factories. That is why I say the way in which this factory has been planned and developed is a model for the development of socialist industry. This is good news. It is important news for the entire country to know of the production capacity of this defense factory. But this is not all. This factory does not have production capacity only for the benefit of defense, but also for the benefit of the national economy.

I really should say something, which I put on record in the little diary given to visitors. I do not like to write too much. Sometimes I just sign off, but on this occasion I said to myself: This afternoon I have learned a lot about what a mechanical industry is. [applause]

It is possible that a large number of people do not know what a mechanical industry is all about. To have clear knowlege of what a mechanical industry is, one must visit this factory. It has been a learning experience for us. We have visited many industries. We have held discussions and meetings. I already spoke to you about the meeting held with the administrators, the labor unions, and the youth and party leaders from each one of the 59 industries that participated in that meeting.

Here, however, we are able to acquire a better and clearer knowledge of what an industry is. Of course, not all industries are the same, but this one is quite typical. One of the things that catches the people's attention is that if steel of a certain quality and quantity is needed, one needs even more steel for the tools that are used in the production. This is amazing and I believe it is the same everywhere. However, the steel needed for the machines and tools is more expensive than the steel needed as raw material to produce rifles. Larger quantities of steel—but not only larger quantities of steel because the difference is not that much—but a much more expensive steel, because of its special characteristics, is used. In the mechanical industry, one can learn about the production of certain items. In this case, the production of light weapons, rifles. The industry also has to produce the tools because without tools, there is no mechanical industry or production.

However, this is not all: A mechanical industry such as this one produces its own spare parts. This follows our country's traditions because the sugar mills —they also manufacture mechanical parts in their shops—also produce many of their own spare parts. Therefore, a mechanical industry produces three things: the products

for which the industry was established; the tools; and the spare parts used by the machines in the industry itself. Perhaps one of the most serious problems faced by our mechanical industry today is the production of tools. It is one of the things that we are trying to develop in our entire mechanical industry. We are trying to develop the industry's capacity to produce its own tools.

I believe this factory is an example. When we tour the factory we can learn about the things produced for specific purposes. We learn about the things it produces in order to work with steel and to provide maintenance for the factory. This industry is not only useful for defense purposes, as I said. It can aid other industries as well. For example, the tools produced by this factory can be used by other mechanical industries in the country. This factory can give support to other mechanical industries in the country because of its capacity to produce tools. We should use this factory's tool production capabilities to the maximum. This is one way in which this factory can help out. This factory can also produce spare parts for equipment used by other factories in the country. The mechanical industry must be developed based on cooperation. Cooperation is especially important in the mechanical industry.

There is something else. This factory can produce articles for civilians. It can produce tools; it can produce spare parts for other industries; and it can produce things for the people. This factory is something more than anything I have mentioned. This factory can become a research center for the mechanical industry. I know you have a group of enthusiastic, intelligent, and well-prepared comrades, who are working in the field of robots and automation.

Not so long ago, I met with a group of comrades—some young engineers—who are working on robots. Well, these comrades are the heirs of those blacksmiths who once manufactured horseshoes. Later on, those shops became factories that produced medical equipment. That old installation was remodeled, and shortly it will be turned over to the group of comrades who once worked in a small shop. They will now have good facilities for their work. They will work on robots, they will conduct robotics research, and will build robot prototypes. I think they might even produce some robots. It would not be surprising if they do because they are producing equipment in a small shop with five machines. Actually, it has two milling machines, two programmed lathes, and one new lathe. They have five machines, but they might get a sixth machine.

They produce a lot of parts in that shop, except for some that they cannot produce and are produced here. You are producing more parts than they are, but they now have more equipment and can relieve you. That is true. You will then have to produce only those parts they cannot produce. There are other shops that cooperate with them. There is a small shop already cooperating with them. I remember they made the first Suma [ultramicroanalysis system] machine by conventional methods. They did not have an automatic lathe. It can be said they manufactured it by hand, part by part. And this is how they manufactured the first of these complex, electromechanical machines, which use reagents. The machine can simultaneously analyze 90 blood samples with only 5 percent of the reagents used by other machines that are currently used for this purpose. The first of these machines with these special features was manufactured in Cuba. Those in charge of manufacturing robots will have their small shop also. They have to develop the robot's brain. The robot must be able to see and even think as much as possible. In a word, it has to be an intelligent robot, that does not make mistakes, and that can help man. I do not see a bright future for this robot development center. [sentence as heard]

Upon arriving here, I was very pleased to learn that a group in this plant is in touch with another group that works on automation. I have already been shown the first little painted robot that you made. As I have already said, this machine can do the work of 36 men in a plant like this. But that does not mean you are going to be laid off. Robots need to be manufactured, maintained, cared for, handled, and directed because somebody has to tell them what to do. Somebody has to program them. This, however, gives you an idea of the production potential with this kind of equipment.

I have been thinking, however. This plant can even manufacture robots. I have visited this plant more than once, but I had not seen the machines that this plant acquired recently. There are nearly 50 special, programmable machines. Production is high. These machines can do anything. It was explained to me that the thing here [words indistinct]. While I looked on, Comrade Luis explained that a particular part of this Suma machine used for immunoassay can only be manufactured with a programmed machine. The part required holes of a specific diameter drilled at precise distances from each other. It is practically impossible to make this part by hand. Workers could make perhaps one, two, or three. The truth is, even the most skilled lathe operator cannot manufacture two parts exactly alike. There is always a slight difference. Let us consider the plant that manufactures carbine parts. I saw a machine there that produces in 2 or 3 hours a part that takes a lathe operator 50 hours to manufacture. Even so, it is very likely that the part will not come out right at the end. A programmed lathe, however, can make parts exactly alike in 2 or 3 hours.

Automation is important because it helps man. Our men and women have nothing to fear from robots or automation. They know things here are different from capitalist countries, where workers are laid off and poverty and joblessness are introduced. We know well that a sugar combine is a marvel and that everybody benefits from it. We know that a crane, a bulk sugar storehouse, a rice combine, or a plane fumigating or spraying fertilizer all

are marvels for us and that everybody benefits from them. This is why, in our economic and social system, the application of science and technology does not ever have to clash with the interests of the people and workers. We should always regard these machines and this scientific and technical progress as a blessing.

I have been thinking about this plant's future; thinking about what it already produces; thinking about the help it can give to other industries; and thinking about what it can produce in the future. It did not seem to me too outlandish to think that one day this plant would include robots in its production. Robots are also mechanical equipment that have a programmed electronic brain.

Looking at all the special machines there, I realized that there is no other shop in this country that is capable of making robots like this one can. So I was very glad to hear that you have a [robotics] group and that you are already in contact with the other group. This means that practically anything can be produced at this factory, whatever you want to produce.

There is some nonmilitary production being done here. I believe there is some information here about the nonmilitary items you are producing. Some items related to tourism are being made here. Is this not strange? A weapons factory making things for tourists. I have already seen here some 18th century rifles. They are called flintlock rifles and flintlock pistols. These are products that can produce foreign exchange. It seems that they do not require much steel or a high-quality steel like that used in making the AK rifle. Those were rifles used in the era of Napoleon Bonaparte or even before then. Historical sables are also made. Rifles, sables, and pistols are being made. Survival knives, which are sophisticated knives, are also made here. These knives are made to help a person survive in the field, alone, without any help.

As I mentioned before, parts for the Suma are also made here. These parts are the industry's very useful contribution to the health field. Other items are nonstandard equipment for the electronuclear plant, gauges for the Taino motor factory, parts for the Espirol earthenware machines used in construction, connections for gas stoves that cost about $2 and that we have had to import in large numbers each year, and protective masks [caretas para polvos finos]. In 1989, they are scheduled to produce external clamps [fijadores externos] of the (Ralca) type. This is another contribution to the medical field—or rather a boost to exports as there is a high demand for these external clamps that were developed in Cuba. Safes for different needs [words indistinct] to the Ministry of Domestic Trade to see if they protect money a little better to ensure that it is not easily stolen. These safes will make life harder for the bums and criminals. [applause] The factory will also make tips and spikes [casquillos y cambreras] for shoes, electrical outlets—this is a very important item as each time we build a house we have to buy outlets, and we have to import them—many times from a hard currency area [area convertible].

Here is a product that I do not know for what it is used. It says here: (piroladores). What does that mean?

[Unidentified person gives indistinct explanation]

[Castro] Is it for construction or industrial purposes?

[Answer indistinct]

[Castro] (Piroladores). Did you know what it was? Yes or no?

[Answer indistinct]

[Castro] The factory can also make forged parts, parts made by melting and casting, gauges, drill bits, nonstandard equipment, and this is just the beginning. This is just to have an idea of what this industry can do. Perhaps one day they will end up making robots and even exporting them. I believe that the information I have given you will help you—the people of Camaguey and all Cubans—understand the industry's characteristics and importance.

Not so long ago, I visited Camaguey to inagurate another big and important food plant: the beer factory. They have just started to construct a powdered milk factory and some equipment has already arrived. A special cheese factory is also being built there. The brigade that constructed this plant is working on these projects. They are working in the (Nuevitas) ammoniac tanks, and I believe they are also helping out in Moa and in Cienfuegos.

This province...[changes thought] I do not want to go on too long since you have been sufficiently inconvenienced when brought here, [applause] but I do have some more things to say about the work in this province. About 19 or 20 months ago—19 months ago—we visited this province for several days. We toured many areas and met with party members and officials. We devised a prospective work plan for the province in many areas, especially in the area of food production. On that occasion we developed a detailed milk development plan for the province. The plan entailed the construction of 300 dairy farms in the Camaguey triangle [triangulo de Camaguey]. These farms would allow us to produce 1 million liters of milk a day—at least during springtime.

We also developed a plan that included all the roads, reservoirs, and installations needed, not only in the dairy farms, but also in breeding farms, in communities, and in villages. We not only planned houses for the community, we also planned the other installations that a community needs. We created development programs

for shrimp breeding, for unproductive land, for producing serpentine, and beef production. Most of all, we planned programs for soil recovery. There are two brigades working on soil recovery—one that already existed and one that was created later. We thought of creating a third brigade. However, this has not been necessary because the two brigades are doing the work of three.

The large-scale plan to build dairy farms began this year. At the end of last year, we organized and began the program. In addition, we have developed fisheries—fish production—and properly used sugarcane by-products. Have I already mentioned the shrimp industry? Shrimp breeding is being developed in southern Camaguey. We have said that with this widespread and ambitious food production plan, Camaguey could become a food production model for the Third World.

It is impossible for me to mention all that has been done here in the province. [Words indistinct] a hectare to turn dung into protein to be used as feed or to breed worms. The idea was to look in every direction and find what this province could provide in the areas of food production, industrial development, and social development. The results have served as guidelines for the party and the province.

The province authorities submitted a report of all the works completed, or to be completed by 31 December. It is a long list but I will read it as fast as I can. It should only take me 6 or 7 minutes. I do not want to miss this opportunity to speak of what the people of Camaguey are doing. I want to speak of it not only to the residents of Camaguey Province but to the whole country. The rest of the country should know what you are doing.

For example: 18 million pesos were invested this year in the sugar industry. Those 18 million pesos were invested in 6 boilers, 6 turbo generators, 3 whistles [cachos], 10 evaporators, 4 collection and preprocessing centers. They were also used to lay 116 km of railroad tracks, to build 210 km of the road to (El Escanero), to build 5 cow sheds, 2 rabbit farms, an agro-chemical center where ammoniac base is produced, a saccharine plant, and used for the conversion of raw sugar to bulk sugar.

Agricultural works: 83 agricultural works have been completed, or are in the process of being completed by the MICONS [Ministry of Construction], and more than 500 small agricultural works have been completed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture has built: 81 small collection centers; 318 windmills; erected 7,637 km of fencing—some of these are electric fences that save on raw materials like wire; another pre-cooked rice plant; a plant hygiene laboratory; a hydrophone; 2 [words indistinct]; rustic cow sheds; a plant for the production of antitick solution; [words indistinct]; workshops; warehouses for fertilizers; irrigation and conduction systems; areas for the breeding of sheep, pigs, and poultry. This province is responsible for many agricultural works.

Many waterworks have also been completed in Camaguey Province. For example: watersheds, the Caonao water pipeline [conductora], Caonao- Pontezuelo water pipeline that supplies water to the City of Camaguey—this is very important for all of you especially during years of drought. You can still remember 1987 when water had to be brought into the area in cisterns.

Other waterworks completed have been the Sola-(Basica) access channel; the Cuban-Bulgarian Friendship water pipeline—29 km of 1,000 mm pipeline; 26 hydrometric networks for the Ministry of Agriculture and the MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry]; many caballeria pastures with irrigation systems; irrigation systems for the production of tubers; 25 km of water channels were repaired in Camalote; irrigation systems in 102 caballerias in Camalote; irrigation systems on 504 hectares of rice; 135 small dams and levees; and 3 pumping stations.

Construction Material Industry: a chute for the crusher at the Vietnam Heroico plant, a kiln, four mosaic factories in Nuevitas and Camaguey, the Palo Seco stone mill, the pipe and earthenware factory, and an iron smelter.

Basic Industry: the Camaguey Province laid 479.8 km of power lines; it built the sixth unit of the 10 October Thermoelectric Plant—the only unit that was missing; a tank to store ammonia base—this is the first 10,000 ton tank to be built—and completion of the installations at the plant; 2 fuel tanks in Pastelillos; a 110 kw substation in Camaguey; a geology laboratory, a center for the production valves for industrial gas cylinders—they can produce up to 50,000 valves each year; and the expansion of the CIME [Metallurgical Research Center] production to include barbed wire.

Transportation and Communication: three telegraph and post offices; a bus station in Camaguey; 35 km of asphalt road on the Albaisa - (?Alexis) - Northern Circuit; completion of the Northern Circuit - Esmeralda - Entronque road in Santa Lucia. After Las Tunas residents complete the part of the road they are building between Manati and Santa Lucia you will almost be able to drive around the whole island passing through Baracoa through the Northern Circuit. You will be able to drive from Santiago de Cuba to Pilon and Manzanillo. We have to complete that stretch. Much of the merchandise has to be sent by the long route because that stretch has not been completed. The contingent building the Coba Rubia road will also build the missing stretch. Dredging work at the Nuevitas Port was also done this year; more than a million cubic meters of swamp was cleared. A coaxial cable station has been partially completed. Similarly, the (Avellanega) telephone center was built, 18 km of telephone lines were laid, 7 bridges were built, 443 km of roads were completed, the foundation for the Centro Oeste railroad was laid, the railroad coach factory was modernized, and the Camaguey Airport control tower was built.

Food Industry: the Florida cookie factory and two ice factories.

Fishing Industry: a shrimp spawning center; a prawn spawning center in Esmeralda; a shrimp research center; a (?hotel) for the shrimp technicians; 411 hectares of ponds for breeding of shrimp; a water support base; and a center for intensive fish breeding.

Public Health: a sterile room at the Oncology Hospital was built; the outpatient clinic at the Provincial Hospital was expanded; a Stomatology Center was built in Jimaguayu; the number of doctors on call at the Pediatric Hospital was increased; 79 family doctor homes were built in 1987 and a further 137 will be built by the end of this year; a microbiology laboratory in Santa Cruz del Sur and Vertientes; a 150-bed expansion of the Military Hospital and more doctors on call; a 160-bed expansion of the Maternity Hospital; a 20-bed expansion of the Camalote Hospital; and the Santa Cruz del Sur Polylinic was also built.

Education: 19 solar heaters were given to day-care centers; a primary school was built; [words indistinct] preuniversity centers in the rural areas; expansion of secondary schools for 600 students; dining rooms, kitchens, day boarding schools, and two special schools were built; 95 percent of the students can attend the double-session school system; construction of an iron and cement school in Lesca; 4 day-care centers; and a workshop for the (Cruce de la Trocha) polytechnical institute.

Sports and Culture: a recreation center in Cespedes; 23 video halls; Camaguey's second tavern; Antonio Maceo recreation Center in Florida; 3 rodeo stadiums; the El Ovejito Restaurant; 5 children's parks; a wrestling gym in Florida; Las Brisas Restaurant in Minas; Las Terrazas nightclub in Minas; Bajo Las Estrellas nightclub in Minas; Villa Coral Santa Lucia, Cubanacan Corporation—164 rooms available for international tourists.

Other Industrial Works: Camaguey Water Purification Plant; completion of a rice-drying room and expansion of another drying room; Gran Panel 6 Plant; bulk production of vegetable flour; and the Esmeralda tailor shop.

Other Social works: 4,000 homes—workers expected to complete them by late December, however, it will be in early January when these homes are completed since they had problems getting some materials; 3 communities for the Youth Labor Army in La Sacra, (Jaimi), and Lugareno; computer club; 4 malls; a glass and mirror production shop; a laundromat; the Santa Cruz del Sur and Minas Revolution Square; 16 rural stores for household and industrial products.

This gives you an idea of the efforts being made by the province in the fields of agricultural, industrial, economic, and social development. The province has also undertaken other efforts, especially during the 1987 sugarcane harvest. [Words indistinct] the Camaguey Province hopes to cut a million tons of sugar, a million tons of sugar [repeats himself]. [applause]

I did not mention the sugar industry when I was talking about the food program, nor did I mention rice and the plans to increase rice and sugar production. I already mentioned that the province is working hard to recover land. It is carrying out research and testing different irrigation and drainage systems, and the province is achieving truly promising goals.

Comrade Lazaro [Lazaro Vasquez, first secretary of the Camaguey Province Executive Bureau] was telling me that with the plot drainage system and the new irrigation system—using the siphon system—the Brazil Sugar Mill could produce twice the amount of sugarcane it is currently producing. He was telling me that the technicians, the engineers, are truly on top of the job; they are discovering the possibilities, and are working much more efficiently.

I have been told that in some of the land in which this irrigation system was used, over 200,000 arrobas. Over 200,000. You [not further identified] told me 250,000 and I do not want people to think I am exaggerating. However, Lazaro told me 250,000 arrobas are going to be produced with this new irrigation system. Sure, it is difficult. It is not easy to apply it. It requires adjustments. It requires a great deal of work but it is a real promise.

I am sparing you the reading of their plans for the coming year. However, based on what they have done this year [applause], based on what they have done this year...[applause] [changes thought] Lazaro, you see Lazaro? Lazaro, they are not applauding because of what they are going to do next year, but because they have been spared the reading. That is what they are applauding for. [laughter] However, they are also applauding because of what they are going to do next year. [Words indistinct] [applause]

These are [words indistinct] in full splendor. The possibilities are right there, visible. A great deal of experience has been accumulated. It is not like in the early years of the revolution, when a man with a 6th-grade education managed a farm of 1,000 acres or managed a sugar mill with a 6th-year education. Look at the difference with today's situation, with the one we have seen here today. There over 400 top-level technicians in a single factory. Today in any industrial complex there are dozens of engineers, technicians, and economists everywhere. This is the fruit of the efforts of all these years. We have better ideas, more experience, better concepts, more development.

These are the outlooks that have been created through all these years by the revolution, which will soon mark its 30th anniversary. [applause] I feel that through the effort of Camaguey Province, you are rendering a worthy and

just homage to the 30th anniversary of the revolution. [applause] We face many difficulties. I will not list here the number of difficulties we logically have, like many other countries. The important thing is to know what we are doing, how we are going to tackle those difficulties, and how we are going to produce more food.

We have set an example with the ambitious milk program that is being carried out in Camaguey Province. This program is working with the precision of a watch. One million liters is 1 million liters. It will produce enough to supply milk to the powdered milk factory, the cheese factory, the ones that existed before, and to the people of Camaguey. Because their lands are mountainous and relatively dry, we have no other choice but to send milk to them and tell them to produce coffee, lumber [words indistinct]. [applause] I am certain, I am determined to march along this path.

Camaguey Province will go far and attain the ambitious goals it has set for itself. All one has to do is to take a tour of the city. I do not recommend it to you because you are, on average, 24 years old. (?I do not know) if you have an idea of what Camaguay was like. However, those who are a few years older just have to take a tour through here and see so many new works, ranging from the vocational school to the universities, the factories—these factories—to get an idea of the development that has been achieved in this province. However, I think it will move forward at an even faster pace in the future and that it will grow more efficient every year.

Now, I think something is missing. There is something missing here. [applause, shouts] Well, what is it? Tell me. [shouts] Well, tell me what it is. I see [crowd applauding and shouting repeatedly: The 26th in Camaguey!] I can see that you have guessed it. I think that based on the efforts made these years—in 1987 and 1988—and based on the achievements of the province, you want the next 26th [of July] celebrations to be held in Camaguey [applause].

This will be the 30th anniversary of the 26 July celebration. Do you know what that means? Well, it means many things, I know. When a province is nominated to host the 26th, it means that the province begins asking all the other provinces for things to...[changes thought]. The province begins asking for everything: materials, people, resources, help, support. That is the first thing that happens when there is a 26 July celebration.

The second thing that happens is that it asks the government, the Planning Commission, and everyone to send them cement, [word indistinct], wood, etc., because they have such and such plans. That always happens around the 26th. It is also true, however, that around the time of the 26 July celebration, a great enthusiasm and working spirit emerges. Many goals are set and undoubtedly progress is made. Also around the 26th, contact is made with the project of a province. During the last one in Santiago de Cuba, for example, we all came into contact with the efforts carried out by Santiago de Cuba. It was also obvious that they worked very hard. It is true that they asked everyone for help. However, the work that they did for the 26 July celebration was very impressive.

And now you have just requested to be a candidate for hosting the 26 July celebration. What can I do? I cannot decide that here. We must decide it with the party's leadership. The most I can do is promise to help you, support you so that you can host the 26th. [applause] The decision will be based on the unquestionable effort that the province is making, and on what it has already accomplished and proposes to be accomplished. I am almost certain that you will reach that goal. What I can do is make this proposal as soon as possible so that you will know several months beforehand whether or not you will be the host. Better yet, whether you will be the host—let us do away with the word not. I know that all this will help you with the plans...[interrupted by indistinct shouts from crowd] Of course, of course. I know that it will help you with the ambitious plans you have. It will generate a lot of strength. I hope by December we will have resolved this matter so that, with that goal and banner in mind, the infinite strength of the enthusiastic, trained, and young people of Camaguey can be exhibited. [applause]

I must end now, but I want to give special recognition and my deepest gratitude to our Soviet brothers [applause] for their help in this work, in this exemplary industry that makes this province and country feel so proud; for this and many other things that you have done for us in the past 30 years.

A while ago I mentioned many new industries and spoke of the Santa Clara mechanical plants. I spoke of the plants in Moa, I spoke of the Holguin sugarcane combine, I spoke of these mechanical plants, and we could go on and on naming numerous industries in these branches in which they have assisted us—in this branch and many others. Almost the entire electricity industry has been built using Soviet and Czechoslovak equipment—both socialist countries. I also mentioned the electro-nuclear power station.

All these important, decisive, and strategic goals are being achieved with Soviet assistance, without which it would have been impossible to carry out these plans.

The young people here, workers at this factory, can understand the importance of the electro-nuclear station, which will have an electricity-generating capacity of 2 milion kw when all four reactors are on line.

At certain times of the day, the hydroelectric plant will be able to generate 2 million kw. This is five times the country's installed capacity before the triumph of the revolution. You who work in an industry like this one understand the importance of electricity. You know that none of these lathes—the hundreds of machines you

have here—can work without electricity. Without electricity nothing would work—the lathes, the computers, the loudspeakers, the lights—we would be like the ancient Greeks, yelling at the top of our voice [desganitandonos]. Is that how you say it? —so 100 or 200 people could hear us. That is what history says; the Greeks met in public parks but they had no loudspeakers. If they did not even have a microphone how were they expected to meet in the public park? Just a handful of people would meet—not even 100—that was Greek democracy.

But you understand its importance to development. You understand what development is. You understand that development requires work and effort, a great deal of effort. We must not think about consumer goods, we must think about development because it is development that makes consumer items available later, in a solid, guaranteed manner, on the basis of one's own economy.

This is an example of development, because to handle machines like this, to manage a factory like this requires a great level of organization. Hundreds of highly skilled technicians are required, and an industrial culture is needed. As I was walking through the factory I saw a number of tools and equipment on a table and I asked: Is this a tool display? I was told: No, it is not. This is the table at which each machine, each piece of equipment, each tool is kept, each one numbered, so as not to waste time—even a minute—when the machines have to be prepared for production. To manage an industry of this kind requires practice. An industrial culture is needed.

You also know that an industrial culture is not attained in 3 days or 3 years. An industrial culture, like the one that we are acquiring in many areas...[changes thought]. I believe that we are making great progress in acquiring the disciplines of an industrial culture. That is development: the acquisition of an industrial culture. That is what we are acquiring now. That is what you are doing here.

You can appreciate how much Soviet aid and cooperation have contributed to this. The Soviets have given us the benefit of their experience. Now it is up to us to build on that experience and make our own contribution to that industrial culture, that organization, that efficiency.

A young collective like yours can achieve whatever it attempts in an industry like this. [applause] I wonder if there is another industry like this anywhere else in the hemisphere. The average level of education is the 11th grade. If you go to any factory in Latin America, you can be sure that a relatively high percentage of the workers will be illiterate, even if they know how to handle a steel rod, or a lathe or some other tool. That is definitely the situation in the Third World.

However, there are even developed capitalist countries that have illiterates in their factories. Very few countries can say that in a new industry like this one, the average schooling of their personnel is to the 11th grade. It is also very unlikely that the workforce would average 24 years of age.

We must be aware of this. I can see you are proud of this plant, that it has become dear to you. This is what counts. This is man's strongest force and social duty. Nothing else can move me so much. In the past few months, we have seen several workers' collectives doing truly extraordinary things that could not be bought with any money. There was a time here when people thought every problem could be solved with money. Shelters were useless at the time. Workers had to sleep on the ground. A construction worker told me that labor cannot be bought in a socialist country. Men were told: Sleep on the ground. I will pay you a peso. And what does the society profit from paying a man a peso for sleeping on the ground? What will this man produce the next day? With what attitude will this man work? And what if the dining room is like a pig sty and he does not get any attention?

We have seen contingents of men. There are now 15,000 men in contingents such as the Blas Roca, that was formed late last year. And there are numerous brigades organized into contingents. One of them arrived in Majaguillar, where an oil-prospecting operation had to be carried out, 35 days in advance. Oil prospecting is very important for development of the area to the north of Matanzas, which is why the contingent was sent there. Another contingent has nearly arrived in Covarrubia. There are already several contingents. Lazaro, I do not know what you people have in Camaguey. Three contingents will be formed. They are men who work without any schedule. This requires great discipline and results in great productivity without absenteeism.

We are seeing what happens when the people's patriotism is harnessed and they are treated properly. When we care for men, we can demand anything from them and get what no money can buy. Life has taught us this. One small thing remains to be pointed out. There is a large number of working women. [applause]. In fact, 30 percent of the workers are women. You can see how wealthy the people are. In the old macho society, women were only considered fit to cook at home. They were regarded as housewives. What strength, what potential! They have a powerful mechanical industry and are used to working with iron. They do work with iron, yes, but with machines that make working with iron easier. They use intelligence and skill, rather than force. [In the background, women are heard chorusing: The force of all women at the service of the revolution] [applause]

About 19 months ago we visited this province for several days. We toured many areas and met with party members and officials. We devised a work plan for the province in many areas, especially in food production.

On that occasion we developed a detailed milk development plan for the province. The plan entailed the construction of 300 dairy farms in the Camaguey triangle [triangulo de Camaguey]. These farms would produce 1 million liters of milk a day—at least in the spring.

We also developed a plan that included all the roads, reservoirs, and installations needed, not only in the dairy farms, but also in breeding farms, in communities, and in villages. We not only planned houses for the community, we also planned the other installations that a community needs.

We created development programs for shrimp breeding, for unproductive land, for producing serpentine, and beef production. Most of all, we planned programs for soil recovery. There are two brigades working on soil recovery—one that already existed and one that was created later. We thought of creating a third brigade. However, this has not been necessary because the two brigades are doing the work of three.

The large-scale plan to build dairy farms began this year. At the end of last year, we organized and began the program. In addition, we have developed fisheries—fish production—and properly used sugarcane byproducts. Have I already mentioned the shrimp industry? Shrimp breeding is being developed in southern Camaguey. We have said that with this broad and ambitious food production plan, Camaguey could become a food production model for the Third World.

We must praise the collective's youth and enthusiasm; we must also praise the large number of women in the collective. For these reasons, we leave with very good impressions of this industrial plant, its workers, and its directors—the comrade in charge of this plant. I was very happy to see the care, the trust, and the warmth with which you received him when he came to speak at this podium. Because today is Sunday—and it is time to rest—I bid you farewell. Fatherland or death." [Crowd shouts "We will win"] [applause].

Haiti

Police Confirm Paul's Death Due to Poisoning

FL0312135588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Haitian police say former Army Commander Jean Claude Paul died from poisoning and not from a heart attack. Col Paul died in early November after eating soup. A police spokesman said no substance was found in the left-over soup seized from Mr Paul's home. The spokesman also said the substance was found in Mr Paul's digestive system during an autopsy.

Editorial Calls Bush-Salinas Meeting 'Success'

PA0512032288 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 23 Nov 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Salinas-Bush Meeting"]

[Text] Carlos Salinas de Gortari and George Bush held a private meeting yesterday. Because of the extent and complexity of U.S.-Mexican relations, not much was achieved during the meeting, which lasted more than an hour. However, the most significant contribution was the meeting itself. Even if they had only shaken hands, the meeting would have been a success. It marks the beginning of a personal relationship that will last at least 4 years; a relationship that will have a direct impact on the future relations of these two countries.

The list of subjects broached during yesterday's meeting shows that there is willingness to engage in broader negotiations, even though the Central American issue was omitted from the talks. Perhaps Salinas de Gortari and Bush felt their first meeting was not the right time to address an issue over which the two governments widely differ. However, there exists the possibility of including Central America on the next meeting's agenda. The issue is crucial to Mexico and all of Latin America in light of their relations with the United States.

Within a strictly bilateral framework, the foreign debt was, by far, the most delicate and important topic to be addressed by the two heads of state. The servicing of the debt is the stumbling block preventing Mexico's economy from gaining momentum and solving other bilateral problems, particularly those pertaining to undocumented workers and drug trafficking. Except for the stopgap loan the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve recently granted Mexico—the purpose for which is still not clear—it seems the team under George Bush's direction has played a modest role in finding a solution to the existing problem. It was 3 years ago when future U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proposed a strategy aimed at helping the Third World confront the debt crisis. However, the strategy failed, particularly because the United States refused to accept greater responsibilities. During the last IMF and World Bank joint meeting in West Berlin, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, who will be ratified in office shortly, adopted an unyielding position. Hence, there is no room for great expectations and Mexico is likely to go through difficult and unpromising negotiations from now on.

Regarding drug trafficking, the fact that Bush admitted that his government must adopt stronger measures to discourage the trafficking was very positive. Also very positive was the fact that during his first visit with Bush, Salinas de Gortari clearly stated that, due to the abysmal differences between the two countries' economies, it would not be possible to establish a common market. Regarding Mexico's undocumented workers, the only reasonable decisions for our government to make would be to maintain its firm demand for the fair and proper treatment of our fellow citizens on the part of the United States and reject further U.S. proposals aimed at establishing notorious workers' quotas.

Salinas' First Activities as President Noted

Social Program Inacted

PA0312213788 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Report by Alfonso Gomez]

[Text] In his first official act, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has implemented a Social Solidarity Program, complying with his electoral promise to help the needy.

Speaking in the Reception Room of the National Palace, Salinas de Gortari said the program will assign funds to communities for their priority needs, stressing that everyone should participate and share the responsibility.

Salinas de Gortari outlined the main aspects of the Social Solidarity Program. A program to make health services available to all will be initiated, which will cover the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, Puebla, Nayarit, Hidalgo, and Zacatecas during the first year, and nine more states during the second year.

On the distribution of supplies, the working capital for 17,000 rural and urban supply centers will be increased, and 1,500 new establishments will be installed in rural areas and 1,000 in lower income urban areas.

A budget food program will be implemented in neighborhoods in the major cities and in peasant settlements to improve nutrition by selling products at affordable prices. A total of 105 dairy stores will be opened during the government's first 100 days in office, and an additional 230 will be opened in 15 states during the rest of the year.

To improve children's health and welfare, the number of school breakfasts will be increased from the current 500,000 to more than 1.5 million.

School furniture and facilities such as desks, blackboards, and rest rooms will be refurbished, particularly in rural areas in Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Hidalgo, Puebla, Sinaloa, Veracruz, Yucatan, Campeche, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, and Tlaxcala. In addition, food scholarships will be increased in 1,250 Indian community schools.

A total of 300,000 land titles will be handed over in 1989 and housing and urbanization programs will be promoted in collaboration with the inhabitants.

A more rational use of irrigation facilities will be made in cooperation with the agricultural laborers, and a program of labor and social support will be implemented for them.

It was also announced that regional development funds will be assigned to communities in 10 states and 1,276 municipalities.

Addressing Indian representatives from southern Ococingo, lumber producers from Quintana Roo, and community leaders from Queretaro and Puebla, Salinas de Gortari said that this is how he will fulfill his long-held commitment to help the poor.

President Salinas promised to meet the representatives again to ensure compliance with the plan and he immediately declared the National Commission of Social Solidarity Plan Commission to be in effect.

Additional Appointments Made

PA0512032788 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced several appointments yesterday.

Carlos Sales Gutierrez	Mexico City Treasurer
Pedro Joaquin Colwell	Fonatur [National Tourism Fund] Director General
Hector Hernandez	Bancomer [Bank of Commerce] Director General
Luis Martinez Villicana	Director of Mexico City's roads and bridges revenues and related services
Francisco Suarez	SOMEX [Mexican Association for Industrial Credit] director
Oscar Lenin Copel	Public Relations Director General of the Government Secretariat
Javier Najera	Public Relations Director for Television.

Meets PAN Leaders

PA0512040688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Consistent with his desire to talk to and reach an understanding with all political parties to increase their participation in democracy, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari met with National Action Party [PAN] leaders on the afternoon of 2 December.

The dialogue started with a discussion of Salinas' address to the nation and PAN's proposal for a comprehensive commitment for law and democracy. Absolute respect and consideration for each other and an open discussion marked this meeting between Salinas and the PAN leaders.

The main topic was the amendments to the electoral code, which will be immediately initiated by a commission to be designated and formed by representatives of several parties. PAN said its deputies will propose candidates for this commission in the coming weeks.

The media's demand for greater freedom was also discussed. Salinas and the PAN leaders agreed on the need to strengthen the country's democratic life, as proposed by PAN and in accordance with Salinas' message.

Opposition Members Attack PRI Supporters

PA0212134388 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Shortly after 1300, supporters of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party [PFCRN], carrying sticks and shouting slogans against President Salinas de Gortari, appeared in El Zocalo, Mexico City.

They tried to reach the National Palace's main door. As the Army cordoned off the area, the PFCRN supporters attacked the crowd that was waiting to see the Mexican president go by. As this occurred, another group appeared on 20 November Avenue and attacked PRI supporters. After security forces arrived on the scene, the PFCRN supporters attacked them with sticks.

Just as this incident was being controlled, another group attacked the crowd on the western side of Constitution Square while shouting slogans demanding that Salinas de Gortari resign because Cardenas is the true president.

The police managed to calm down the PFCRN supporters, but there were other violent outbreaks in other areas of El Zocalo. PFCRN supporters tore down and burned PRI posters and ran from place to place to avoid the police and Army.

Irangate's 'Amiram Nir Dies in Plane Crash

TA0212055888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] 'Amiram Nir, former adviser to Prime Ministers Peres and Shamir on terrorism has died in a plane crash in Mexico. The crash took place several hundred kilometers north of Mexico City. The pilot attempted to make an emergency landing when he discovered a malfunction in the engine. 'Amiram Nir and the pilot were killed and two other passengers were injured. 'Amiram Nir was 38.

Prior to being taken on by Peres as an advisor, he served as military adviser to Israel Television. Several years ago, his name was brought up in connection with the Irangate affair.

El Salvador

Duarte Feeling Chemotherapy 'Side Effects'

Enters Mexican Hospital

PA0212172788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1617 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—It was reported in San Salvador today that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte was admitted to a military hospital in the Mexican capital yesterday and that a transfer to the United States was recommended because of complications related to his terminal cancer.

Duarte was in Mexico with other Latin American presidents for the inauguration of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Roberto Viera, the Salvadoran minister of communications and culture, explained that because of a fifth chemotherapy treatment received last week, Duarte experienced "side effects, including stomatitis and a colon infection."

According to Viera, the Salvadoran president is suffering from dehydration and has a a 38-degree [Celsius] fever, which led to his entering a military hospital in Mexico.

Doctors who are treating Duarte's fatal disease advised him to transfer to the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, in the United States, Viera said.

However, it is not yet clear in San Salvador whether the trip to the United States has already been made. [passage omitted]

The Salvadoran Government's Press Office announced that it will hold a news conference in the next few hours to discuss the condition of Duarte's health.

To Travel to Washington

PA0212190188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1741 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Washington, 2 Dec (EFE)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte is suffering from a "mild infection caused by the chemotherapy he is undergoing to combat liver cancer." He will arrive this afternoon in Washington for a checkup, sources close to the president told EFE.

"It is not alarming or serious. He has a little fever and the decision was made to fly him out of Mexico, where he was hospitalized yesterday, to the Walter Reed Medical Center, where he underwent a stomach cancer operation and has received treatment," added a source who declined to be identified.

Mexican and Salvadoran authorities have been silent on Duarte's condition. However, unconfirmed sources said he was hospitalized at the Angeles Medical Center in Mexico City.

The hospital where he is supposedly staying reported having received more than 20 calls last night and this morning inquiring about the health of the Salvadoran president. However, it did not say if Duarte is hospitalized there.

Jose Napoleon Duarte was in Mexico attending, along with other Latin American presidents, the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Due to his fever, the Salvadoran leader was unable to attend the gala dinner hosted by the new Mexican president.

After an informal meeting with Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the Los Pinos presidential residence, the Salvadoran president disappeared from public view. [passage omitted]

Transfer to Washington Denied

PA0312000388 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Salvadoran Embassy in Mexico City has denied rumors that President Duarte has been transferred to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. The embassy admitted that the U.S. Government offered a plane to take President Duarte to Washington but said that the offer was rejected. The embassy added that the Salvadoran president had chosen to accept Mexican medical care.

According to the latest reports, the Salvadoran president's temperature is back to normal and it is expected that he will be able to return to his country on Sunday.

Condition 'Satisfactory'

FL0312001788 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2233 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte is in satisfactory condition, according to reports today from the Salvadoran Embassy in Mexico. The diplomatic mission asserted that, according to medical reports, the fever President Duarte had yesterday which led him to be hospitalized has already subsided. [passage omitted]

The Salvadoran Embassy in Mexico stated that President Duarte is very grateful for the medical attention provided for him by the Mexican Government. It is not known when he will be released from the hospital so that he can return to his country.

To Remain '2 or 3 Days'

PA0412002988 Paris AFP in Spanish 2306 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Mexico, 3 Dec (AFP)—Salvadoran Ambassador Sigfrido Munes announced today that President Jose Napoleon Duarte is recovering from the intestinal infection that led to his hospitalization on Thursday, after attending the inauguration of new Mexican President Carlos Salinas on that day.

Meanwhile, prior to returning home today, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo told AFP that Duarte "has already overcome the slight infection" that afflicted him and he will remain in Mexico for a further 2 or 3 days before returning to San Salvador.

The president, who is at the presidential general staff's Maximino Avila Camacho Hospital, which is next to the Los Pinos presidential residence, is being treated by Mexican doctors who have recommended "rest, tranquillity," and a series of "clinical examinations," Munes said.

According to the diplomat, if his "clinical condition" does not change this weekend, Duarte will be able to return to his country on Monday.

Guatemala

Government Sends Message of Support to Alfonsin

PA0412010788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0028 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Dec (DPA)—Roberto Carpio Nicolle, Guatemalan vice president and acting president in Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo's absence, sent a message of support today to the Argentine Government of President Raul Alfonsin.

The message expresses the Guatemalan "people and government's solidarity during the illustrious Argentine Government's crisis, which is caused by groups that reject President Alfonsin's democratic government and want to destabilize the process initiated 5 years ago."

The message adds that Guatemala hopes Argentina will soon return to complete stability so that there can be progress and democracy.

Nicaragua

Ortega Lauds 'Solidarity' in Mexico City Speech

PA0312135488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0436 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the Carrillo Gil Museum in Mexico City on 2 December—recorded]

[Text] Mexican brothers and comrades: Tonight is definitely a night to confirm the historic ties between the Mexican and Nicaraguan peoples. This is an expression of solidarity that demonstrates the goodwill of Latin American, Caribbean, African, and Asian peoples who are struggling for independence, peace, and self-determination.

In Nicaragua we are simply waging a battle. It is a battle we fight on behalf of the so-called Third World peoples; it is a battle in which we have received extraordinary solidarity from people in developed countries and even in the United States. Brothers from many of those countries have fallen in our homeland, where we are fighting in defense of our independence and sovereignty. Those brothers have been in Nicaragua working with our people, with our peasants. These brothers, too, have been victims of the current U.S. Administration's aggressive policy, a policy that ignores international (?agreements) and violates the Nicaraguan people's right to life.

Nicaragua has never done any harm to the United States. However, the United States did great harm to the Nicaraguan people in the last century, and it continues to do great harm to the Nicaraguan people. We are part of Latin America and the Caribbean, which the United States has tried to subjugate, enslave, oppress, exploit, and dominate. However, we are a living force; we are part of a history of rebellion, militancy, and resistance against various forms of oppression our peoples have been subjected to.

It is not by chance that in these historic times, Latin American peoples, political forces, and governments with different ideological positions agree with one another, encouraged by our peoples' militant strength and commitment.

In assuming our responsibility to struggle, we find that our common interests are more important than our differences. We must fight for a just international economic order. The current one oppresses our peoples. It is a duty we must assume as Latin Americans. To face the foreign debt problem, to defend our peoples' self-determination and independence, to defend respect for an international legal order, and to respect the rulings issued by international legal bodies like the International Court of Justice are duties that we Latin Americans must actively assume.

In January, Nicaragua will enter its 8th year of facing aggression from the U.S. leaders. It is an aggression with very special characteristics because there are formal relations between the United States and Nicaragua. There is a U.S. diplomatic mission in Managua, and Nicaragua has a diplomatic mission in the United States. It is a war that has been developing little by little. At first it was a covert war; then it was legalized by the U.S. Congress itself. It is an unfair war that is supposed to contribute to peace and democracy in Nicaragua. It is an unfair war that is supposed to give Nicaraguans what we came to vindicate on 19 July 1979, which was denied us during the past years of repression when the United States had the opportunity in Nicaragua to finish what it started out to do.

The truth is that the battle we are waging in Nicaragua is one that defends higher interests and questions U.S. policy in Latin America and the Caribbean. A blow to Nicaragua or a U.S. Administration victory in Nicaragua will be a blow to the Latin American peoples and governments, which are playing more active roles in demanding fair, respectful treatment from the U.S. Government.

Nicaraguans are not involved in a crusade against the United States. We are involved in a crusade for our peoples' independence and self-determination; we are involved in a crusade for the development of respectful relations between powerful countries, such as the United States, and small countries, such as Nicaragua.

Our (?crusade) cannot represent a threat to U.S. security, even though the United States has asserted that its policy against Nicaragua is based on the fact that the Nicaraguan revolution threatens U.S. security. It is a matter of asking how the Nicaraguan revolution can threaten U.S. security.

The United States has argued that its campaign against Nicaragua is based on the fact that there is no freedom or democracy. This implies that there was democracy in Nicaragua during Somoza's time. Somoza was a good friend of the United States and had U.S. support.

We never heard about a U.S. Government policy, whether the president was a Republican or Democrat, that questioned the Somozist regime's actions. Quite the contrary, the U.S. Government fully supported the Somozist regime, which was given political, economic, and military support. Consequently, there is no basis or argument to justify the unjust, dirty war against Nicaragua when our country has managed to build a democratic regime for the first time.

The United States has tried to divide Latin America, but the Latin Americans are determined to unite in a common front to face their problems. The United States has even attempted to subdue and use Latin American governments, especially in Central America, to eliminate Nicaragua, to attack Nicaragua, and to use them as a base to launch aggression against Nicaragua. Despite the economic weakness of these countries, however, despite their dependence on the United States, they have demonstrated that the Central American people and governments want independence.

The Esquipulas peace agreement signed by the Central American governments demonstrated independence in response to U.S. policy. The agreement signed in Mexico the day before yesterday by the five Central American foreign ministers confirmed the Central American people's desire to achieve independence.

A veritable battle is being waged under extremely complex conditions in Central America, where injustice and oppression have forced the people to take up arms to achieve independence and freedom, as in the case of Nicaragua. Other people, such as the Salvadoran people, have decided to take up arms—even though other Central American people have opted to follow a twisted path—because the Central American people's historical demands have not been fulfilled. These demands date back to 1821, when the Central American countries achieved their independence from Spain.

The Central American people are still making these demands, and they must be heeded by the Central American leaders. The people demand a negotiated solution to the conflicts in Central America. The people demand a mature attitude from the Central American leaders, and also a mature attitude from the Central American revolutionaries. It is not by chance that the Central American revolutionaries insist on a negotiated solution to regional conflicts. It is not by chance that the Salvadoran revolutionaries are willing to hold a dialogue and to reach a negotiated solution to that conflict, which brings further tension to the already critical situation in Central America.

We are not friends of war; we are friends of peace. Precisely because we are friends of peace, we overthrew the Somozist dictatorship and immediately took on the task of making the Nicaraguan people literate. We would like to be devoting all our resources and efforts to the construction of schools, health centers, houses, roads, and cooperatives and to the construction of the Nicaragua Sandino dreamed about. We are making that Nicaragua a reality despite the aggression and despite all the obstacles that have appeared and that might continue to appear.

We are not friends of war; we are friends of peace. But we have dignity, determination, pride, and patriotism, and we are ready to defend our territory, our sovereignty, and our self-determination with unyielding strength. All Nicaraguans are committed to this battle. We form a single army of workers, peasants, intellectuals, technicians, craftsmen, Indians, mestizos, whites, and blacks. We are all united in a single effort. It includes Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians, the people of Monimbo and Subtiava, and all the forces that were liberated by the revolution and that today are ready to defend the 19 July 1979 triumph to the end.

We have been waging a battle that has cost the Nicaraguan people much blood, sacrifice, and grief. We have been waging a battle in which the people have been rebuilding their schools, which have been destroyed by the U.S. policy. We have been waging a battle with international solidarity, with the active support of all peoples. We have been rebuilding houses, cooperatives, and health centers. The U.S. policy has ordered the destruction of those health centers and cooperatives, which did not exist in the past and which were built as a result of the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution.

We have been waging a battle even though the enemy is powerful. We have always been offering to that enemy the possibility of reaching an understanding, because enemies are those who follow a policy against Nicaragua. Nicaragua is not the one following a policy against the United States. [5-second break in reception] In January, Nicaragua will have been suffering this policy for 8 years. It has claimed more than 54,000 victims. With Nicaragua's population of 3.6 million, this is, in relative terms, much higher than the number of U.S. casualties in World Wars I and II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. [10-second break in reception] ...number of victims Nicaragua has suffered in the past 8 years is higher than all the victims [words indistinct] when the United States has participated in just wars, as its participation in World War II, and in unjust wars, as its participation in the Vietnam and Korean wars.

We have been subjected to this aggression. We have also taken domestic measures to defend [words indistinct], because I do not think anyone [words indistinct] when the U.S. Congress openly discusses [words indistinct] support to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

We insist that it is necessary that the United States and Nicaragua reach an understanding. We maintain this position and will continue to maintain this position. We are not enemies of the United States. We have brotherly feelings toward the U.S. people, toward U.S. citizens like Benjamin Linder, an engineer who was working with peasants in the Nicaraguan mountains. They have also been victims of the U.S. Government's policy. They were killed by the counterrevolutionaries. We have brotherly feelings toward U.S. citizens like Brian Willson, a Vietnam war veteran, a decorated hero of the Vietnam war who has also been a victim of this U.S. policy in the United States itself. A train filled with weapons ran over him, cutting off his legs. He joined the thousands of people who have been crippled by the U.S. policy against Nicaragua.

It is time for the United States to think carefully and to change its attitude toward Nicaragua. We are certain that sooner or later relations between the United States and Nicaragua will have to be normalized, and then there will be peace in Nicaragua.

In this way, a victory will have been achieved not only by the Nicaraguans but by all the peoples who have been actively participating in the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution. Nicaragua's suffering is the suffering of the Latin American and Caribbean people, of the people of the Third World, of the people of the developed countries, and of the U.S. people who are aware of the injustice of that policy. The victories of the Nicaraguan people are also the victories of all peoples. It is [word indistinct] that in its struggle for self-determination and independence, Nicaragua has maintained deep ties with the Mexican people.

Sandino once came to this militant, rebel Mexico, and he learned from the Mexican people's fighting spirit. During Sandino's struggle, there was a Mexican committee calling for hands off Nicaragua. Today this committee, as in Sandino's time, expresses its militant, fraternal solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. It is only natural for peoples [words indistinct] people.

Tonight we were surprised to see that, following the destruction caused by the hurricane that added to the damage caused to the Nicaraguan people, we are receiving such solidarity from the Mexican people. [passage indistinct]

All men and women have an artistic inclination in them; we are all poets, musicians, and painters because art runs in our blood and spirit. As the comrade pointed out, the revolution cannot exist without songs, poetry, and art. The Nicaraguan revolution is full of art and poetry. Sandino was full of art, poetry, and song. [Words indistinct] Sandino, when he was fighting against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

I would like to thank the Mexican artists and brothers, who are actively committed to the Nicaraguan people. I want to thank them on behalf of our humble, simple, and hardworking people; I want to thank them on behalf of the peasants, who live deep in the mountains. They are men and women who have organized themselves to work and to defend the revolution. They are our brothers working the fields while they are ready to use their rifles to fight the mercenaries.

Entire families—men, women, and even children—are forced to fight to repel attacks by mercenaries who come to kill children and women; destroy cooperatives, schools, and health centers; kill doctors, [words indistinct].

On behalf of the heroic Nicaraguan people, I thank you for this gesture that further binds us with you, Latin American brothers, who will also write a heroic page in history together with the heroic people of Sandino, who today extend their arms, fists, hands, hearts, and love.

It is not by chance that we all have the same history, dreams, and hopes. I recently visited the humble home where Zapata was born. Once again, I felt that we were walking on the same path as Sandino and Zapata, who were exemplary men, heroes of Nicaragua and Mexico and of all of Latin America. I felt that Zapata's cause is our cause and that the force, combativeness, and courage that always guided his actions are the same that guided Sandino. We have common views and objectives; that is why we are meeting here tonight. This is a night of joy, because our people, despite their sufferings and [word indistinct], are showing their (?mutual) solidarity.

This year we are also commemorating in Nicaragua the 100th anniversary of "Azul" [book written by Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario]. We are about to end the 100th

anniversary of the year in which Dario's work of liberation was published. Dario foresaw the risks Latin America ran in facing U.S. policy. Dario made many calls for Latin American unity. In his last days, Dario made a cry for peace, the same cry the Nicaraguan people repeat today on the 100th anniversary of "Azul." We repeat Dario's cry, which was expressed in the verse when the Italian shouted: Peace, peace, peace! Today I repeat his cry: Soul of my soul! To the country of the [word indistinct] dawn! [applause]

Panama

Noriega Addresses 'Group of 77' Meeting

PA0212230288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2045 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Speech by Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama Defense Forces commander in chief, closing the Group of 77 National Agencies of Technical Cooperation's third biennial meeting, at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] I greet you under this banner of the Group of 77. I greet you, Mr Ahmed Ghezal, President of the Group of 77; Mr (Azaed Burcai), chairman of this meeting; Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez; Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera; members of the Supreme Court of Justice; Panamanian officials; members of all the participating countries:

I want to apologize for the fact that destiny has chosen me to close this very solemn, special, scientific, and technical meeting. I am a layman on the subjects you have discussed over the past several days.

Technological and economic cooperation among developing countries calling for a new international economic order is based on the principle of self-determination and on national and collective self-sufficiency. This is the case with Panama, which is suffering humiliating aggressions at the end of this century for boldly believing in and practicing these principles.

While it is true that the progress of the developing countries depends primarily on our own initiatives and efforts, it is also true that progress is affected by the influence of the developed countries' policies and actions.

On many occasions, this influence takes the form of brutal political, moral, economic, diplomatic, and military aggressions. Meetings such as this one on technical cooperation among developing countries must effectively contribute to finding solutions to our problems.

These actions must be adopted without too much bureaucratic fuss. The survivors of the planet earth are now demanding quick and specific solutions.

We are closing an event that has lasted several days, during which efforts were made and work was carried out. But this is not the end. This is just the beginning of the efforts you have committed yourselves to carry out. Once we are physically separated, when you return to your countries, the decision you made to comply with these commitments must serve to keep us united. This is the kind of solidarity that allows countries to be united in spite of geographic distances.

This is all we can tell you and the world; this is what my people can tell you; this is what a people who have successfully resisted aggression can tell you: We are demonstrating the essence of Latin American solidarity among brotherly countries. This brings us closer to Bolivar's ideal of forming a great nation that should extend from Patagonia and the Malvinas Islands to the Rio Grande. The purpose of this great nation would not be to compete or to attack, but to promote peace, an essential condition for channeling resources toward development and not toward militarization.

This must seem strange coming from a military man. Nevertheless, our institution, formerly headed by General [Omar] Torrijos, has since 1979 been waging war on poverty, misery, and illiteracy. Our tanks are tractors that build roads. Our soldiers travel to the remotest regions where bureaucrats refuse to go. Our support of the poor makes children run to our soldiers and our helicopters rather than away from them. We have learned to talk with peasants, Indians, workers, and the various ethnic groups, which are not being rejected in this country.

In this constant consultation with the people, our men and women have described this as a people-government relationship. I would add a third factor: the armed forces. This new idea and practice is what allows the Panamanian soldier, abiding by his code of conduct and discipline, to think in this manner, thus becoming—as [U.S.] Admiral [John] Poindexter threateningly said—a bad example for other concepts of military strategy.

Panama has traditionally held peoples' self-determination in high regard. Panama has traditionally been particularly interested in its people's welfare. This attitude has primarily guided our relations with other nations, especially the Third World countries.

The economic war declared by the United States against Panama has demonstrated the effectiveness of international solidarity. The greatest degree of solidarity has been expressed in the cooperation among developing countries. Cooperation has enabled us to effectively cope with pressing and crucial health, food, and educational problems. We owe a debt of gratitude to all sister people who have backed us in our struggle, which is the struggle of all Latin America. It is the struggle of all the peoples of Africa, the Middle East, Asia—of all peoples where

colonialism still exists. We could say that never have so many poor people throughout the world done so much for this small nation that has been attacked. [applause]

The aggressor power has used its huge influence and ability to control news collection, production, distribution, and dissemination systems. Panama today demands dignity, liberty, and an end to colonialism. Another country could do likewise tomorrow. This power to control information exceeds the mass media's ability to seriously and truly analyze the news passed on to the public. Small countries everywhere can be victimized by this disinformation campaign. This is a modern weapon in the psychological war that serves to control newspapers and radio and television dispatches, distort interviews, make false attributions, and deliberately berate patriotic leaders by means of the new fascist Nazi method of constantly hammering news items into the defenseless minds of captive audiences, which are the deliberate targets in this war. This weapon is mercilessly used to try to subjugate or neutralize societies not born to be slaves.

Our people have suffered innumerable injuries, but the aggression continues. Right now, I cannot state the qualitative or quantitative damage that has been done because the economic sanctions against Panama are still in effect.

Futile efforts have been made to undermine Panama's resistance, perseverance, fighting spirit, and dignity. The only thing we have asked for and are still asking for is respect, because we have long since stopped being a banana republic.

Our right to guide our own destiny and to choose our own form of government should be respected. In a nutshell, our life style must be respected. I am inflexible when it comes to defending our dignity. I believe a people's dignity cannot be pawned, loaned, surrendered, subdued, disposed of, shared, or mortgaged, because it is the divine inheritance that God, Allah, Jehovah, the Supreme Teacher, or the universal cosmic consciousness left on earth when man was created. [applause]

I believe deeply in the reestablishment of a new international order, in a system of economic and social justice where there will be no exploiters or exploited, where the wealthy will not become wealthier and the poor poorer. This however, will only be achieved with a spirit of struggle, when we are all willing to close ranks for a common cause with a unified strategy.

I must say, in bidding you farewell, that we have learned from your great ability to help humanity, demonstrating that intelligence and truth have no skin color nor are they exclusive to northern, southern, eastern, or western regions. We have learned from you the humility of expressing scientific truths without arrogance, without the pretentiousness of foreign labels, and we have learned from you, by strengthening ourselves with your courage, not to be afraid to question the powerful who try to impose their reasoning and truths on us with their strength.

Our people and government have been honored and have strengthened their vital dignity and patriotism with the presence of Ahmed Ghezal, president of the Group of 77. [applause]

On returning home, each of you can say that in Panama you heard the people's cry that the time has come, that they will struggle for peace, never for war, and that they will struggle for life, never for death. Thank you. [applause]

Argentine Rebel's Use of Noriega Plane Denied

PA0512001888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2312 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Panama City, 4 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Major [Edgardo] Lopez Grimaldo, public relations chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], has categorically denied that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who headed a military rebellion in Argentina, left Panama in Noriega's plane, as diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires reported today.

Lopez Grimaldo termed "ridiculous" the reports from Buenos Aires that Col Seineldin left Panama in General Manuel Antonio Noriega's plane with Noriega's authorization.

Lopez Grimaldo said, "Sieneldin departed Panama on a commercial flight." However, he could not specify the date of his departure or the airline.

Col Seineldin was military attache at the Argentine Embassy in Panama from 1984 to 1986. Then, with President Raul Alfonsin's authorization, he served as FDP "guest instructor" until 22 November, [date as received] when Gen Noriega, in a farewell ceremony, decorated him with the "Division General Omar Torrijos order."

When approached by ACAN-EFE, Maj Lopez Grimaldo referred to a statement made yesterday by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, who stressed his "solidarity with Raul Alfonsin's constitutional government" in a telephone call to Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, which the latter made public.

Lopez Grimaldo attributed the reports to "maneuvers by sinister forces" that, according to him, are behind the accusations originating in Buenos Aires which implicate Gen Noriega in an aborted military coup in Argentina.

According to Lopez Grimaldo, this is "another lie aimed at linking Panama and Gen Noriega with something we have nothing to do with."

Reports from Argentina said Seineldin was supported by Major Oscar Castrellon, former Panamanian military attache in Buenos Aires, who was removed from his post a few months ago at the Argentine government's request due to alleged "destabilizing political activities."

According to the same sources, Castrellon returned to Argentina from Israel 7 days ago to finance Seineldin's rebellion. This was also firmly denied by Maj Lopez Grimaldo.

Argentina

Spokesman Reports on Alfonsin-Bush Meeting

PY0312185588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1314 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Washington, 3 Dec (TELAM special correspondent)—President Raul Alfonsin's meeting with U.S. President-elect George Bush at the latter's official residence in Washington lasted 75 minutes.

Vice President-elect Dan Quayle, Secretary of State George Shultz, James Baker, who will replace Shultz, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, and Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, also attended the meeting.

Alfonsin was accompanied by Ambassador Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, Argentine Foreign Ministry deputy secretary for Latin American Affairs, and Enrique Candiotti, Argentine ambassador to the United States.

After the meeting, and before leaving Andrews Air Force Base to return to Buenos Aires, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez reported on Alfonsin's meeting with George Bush.

The talks on Latin America, Lopez said, were very cordial, open, and interesting. I would say that Bush and Alfonsin agreed on several aspects of the matters discussed, Lopez said. Bush was very receptive to Alfonsin's remarks on the need to establish new, different dialogues between the United States and the Latin American countries.

Lopez said Alfonsin's remarks conveyed the opinion of the Group of Eight presidents. During the last Group of Eight meeting, the need for different, more responsible, more creative talks between the United States and Latin America was made very clear. It was also made clear that only through this type of dialogue will the two parties be able to discuss commonly shared concepts and ideals regarding democracy, which is a highly valued Western ideal. Sharing this basic ideal, the two parties must discuss matters regarding Latin America that closely affect our hemisphere's security, such as those connected to our economic development. In his speech before the UN General Assembly today [as received], President Alfonsin mentioned the economic issue and explained how it affects the Latin American countries, Lopez said.

The spokesman said President Alfonsin claimed that only through economic growth can democracy be strengthened in our countries. Alfonsin also said that the debt and the declining international prices being paid for our products must be included in this new dialogue and viewed as a problem of economic growth, not as a way of paying a debt.

Vice President Bush showed great interest in discussing this economic growth issue and said the United States is very interested in the consolidation of democracy in Argentina and is ready to support this process.

Lopez also said Bush was interested in knowing how the military crisis was developing. President Alfonsin, however, simply told him that the rebellion was being staged by a very small group and that he was sure it would be promptly controlled.

Asked about Bush' intentions regarding the foreign debt, Lopez said Bush showed a very open and receptive attitude toward the issue, asked several questions, and seemed ready to discuss and try to understand all matters regarding Latin American interests.

Alfonsin boarded the presidential TC-91 plane at Andrews Air Force Base and left for Ezeiza International Airport at 0322 GMT.

Events of Military Uprising Described

Campo de Mayo Revolt Aborted

PY0212120188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1050 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Reliable sources today reported that an uprising was aborted before dawn today in Campo de Mayo. They added that four people were arrested during a lightening operation carried out by plainclothesmen carrying ITAKA shotguns.

At midnight last night, it was confirmed that General Eugenio Dalton, chief of the 10th Infantry Brigade, arrested three 7th Regiment officers in Arana, near La Plata.

The Campo de Mayo uprising occurred at about 0100 when apparently a high-ranking officer spoke to the troops and urged them to join the operation launched by about 60 Argentine Naval Prefecture officers.

In view of this situation, the Army confronted virtual uprisings in some of its units. This had been described as a "Holy Week and Monte Caseros backlash."

President Alfonsin, who is visiting the United States, was informed about the situation. While still in Mexico, Alfonsin described the issue as "a small, unimportant problem."

Last night, NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS journalists witnessed the reinforcement of the guards at the infantry school and other Campo de Mayo garrisons. However, they were unable to confirm whether the troops are confined to barracks.

It has also been confirmed that the two trucks used by the prefecture personnel to escape from the Olivos-based Albatross Unit were seen by a police patrol helicopter at the 3d Tablada Regiment.

A high-ranking congressional source said that this morning's uprising was quelled because those who started it "are disorganized due to their succession of failures."

This morning a source from the 10th Infantry Brigade told NA that "the situation is completely under control" and that activities "are normal."

The military spokesman said that "yesterday's acts of indiscipline are being studied by a military court."

For his part, the congressional source added: "The rebels were demoralized primarily because they lacked a charismatic leader who could earn the support of young officers and of all other personnel."

It has also been stated that Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who is highly regarded among mid-level and junior Army officers, is still in Panama. Therefore, Seineldin's connection to the uprising has been completely ruled out.

"Anyway," the congressional source said, "the salary issue, Seineldin's possible placement on availability status, and the demand for recognition for the fight against subversion seem to be the issues."

Last night the Justicialist Bloc at the Chamber of Deputies stated through its leader, Jose Luis Manzano, that the still unlocated Albatross commando group could take some isolated political action. "Thus, they would be tried by a military court, and not by Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti, who already issued arrest warrants for them," Manzano added. [passage omitted]

Army Evaluating Uprising

PY0212124488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1126 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (DYN)—Lieutenant General Jose Segundo Dante Caridi, Army chief of staff, is now meeting with Army staff officers to evaluate the insubordination that has occurred at the Campo de Mayo Infantry School.

School personnel have rebelled and are under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Olivera, who is reportedly accompanied by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

It has been reported that Seineldin entered the school early this morning upon returning to the country.

A proclamation appointing Seineldin "commander of the Army in operations" was announced by telephone to media organizations.

As of 0930, there has been no report on other military uprisings.

Caridi ordered a number of administrative measures, including the movement of troops, to quell the rebellion.

Official Confirms Uprising

PY0212120388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (DYN)—A high-ranking government official today confirmed that a state of "insubordination" exists at the infantry school located at the Campo de Mayo garrison. He added that "appropriate measures are being taken to resolve the situation."

Rumors on Rebel Commander

PY0212123488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1138 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—A wave of rumors that have been neither confirmed nor denied today caused uncertainty in the population in view of rumors that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin has taken command of the Campo de Mayo Infantry School, thereby rebelling against General Dante Caridi's authority.

According to information obtained by local media, shortly after 0700 Seineldin read a proclamation stating that he "took to arms" against the force's authorities "in a definite attempt to recover the Army's honor and its historical role."

The alleged proclamation goes on to say that "the colonel accepted the offer made by the institution's officers after having been promised that constitutional order will be safeguarded." [passage omitted]

Col Omar Seineldin [name as received] allegedly arrived in Argentina on Wednesday, 30 November, on board a private plane accompanied by eight other people—civilians and military. His entry into the country was allegedly "legal and free of any problems" according to sources close to the rebel officer.

According to these same sources, this morning shortly before 0700, Seineldin placed himself at the head of the officers of the Infantry School, the epicenter of the Holy Week uprising.

The officers at the school were allegedly told that he was taking over as "commander of the Army in operations and he took up arms against Army authorities to recover its honor and historical role."

However, rumors about Seineldin's presence in the country had not been officially confirmed by midmorning.

In view of this, there is the possibility that the rebel officers are invoking Col Seineldin's name to give their uprising more strength.

'Albatross' Unit at School

PY0212121388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1140 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (DYN)—All the members of the "Albatross" commando squadron, the naval prefecture elite force, are at the Campo de Mayo infantry school "under Colonel Seineldin's command."

This has been reported by Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Olivera, who headed an uprising at the infantry school to place it under Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin's command.

Yesterday the "Albatross" squadron left its barracks in Olivos. Presumably it entered the Campo de Mayo Infantry School that same morning and stayed there until today.

Commandos and former students are also present at the infantry school.

Caridi Order: 'Crush' Uprising

PY0212125688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1242 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—According to reliable Army sources, Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Jose Dante Caridi has ordered operations to crush the Campo de Mayo uprising.

Caridi has talked with Brigadier General Isidro Caceres, commander of the 1st Cavalry Brigade, headquartered in Tandil.

The sources did not dismiss the possibility that Caceres will go to Buenos Aires to head any operations that may be undertaken.

Moreover, the possibility that units of the 8th Tank Regiment, headquartered in Magdalena, may be mobilized was also mentioned.

TELAM talked with the director of the LU 22 Radio Tandil newscast, Sergio Pinchintti, who said that an unusual mobilization of men in the Army unit there was noticeable. He added that military sources told him that they were ordered to march to Campo de Mayo.

Rebel Spokesman Interviewed

PY0212143488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINA in Spanish 1345 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—The rebels in Campo de Mayo Infantry School are determined "to struggle to the ultimate consequences" in order to achieve their objectives. This was revealed today by the rebel spokesman, who identified himself as Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Olivera.

The officer said the rebels "absolutely" respect the constitutional order, but they are not willing to hold talks with government officials.

During a telephone interview with Radio Mitre, Olivera said that the movement, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, will end "when the causes that prompt these situations are revised."

The following is the content of the interview a Radio Mitre reporter held with Olivera:
Reporter: Could you tell us what you are talking about? Is this an Army internal matter or is this a coup?
Olivera: No, no, no, this is exclusively an internal Army problem.
Reporter: What does that mean?
Olivera: We question the Army leadership.
Reporter: Caridi's leadership?
Olivera: That is right.
Reporter: Are you questioning the president?
Olivera: No, not at all.
Reporter: Do you respect the constitutional order?
Olivera: Absolutely.
Reporter: How far to you plan to go?
Olivera: Until the ultimate consequences.
Reporter: What do you mean?
Olivera: This will end when the causes that prompt these situations are revised.
Reporter: Are you willing to fight?
Olivera: Yes.
Reporter: Are you going to pose any resistance to the loyal troops?
Olivera: I couldn't tell, we are the loyal ones.
Reporter: What other garrisons are with you?
Olivera: I have been instructed not to reveal that information.
Reporter: Are we talking about garrisons?
Olivera: Yes.
Reporter: Are they located in the interior of the country or inside Campo de Mayo?
Olivera: In both geographical locations.
Reporter: Have you considered the possible reaction your action could provoke among the people?
Olivera: We have considered the reaction it can have within the Army.
Reporter: What about the people?
Olivera: This is an internal Army problem.
Reporter: But, it transcends....
Olivera: Possibly, but that was prompted by the circumstances.
Reporter: Aren't you worried about that?
Olivera: No.
Reporter: How is this going to end? With General Caridi's retirement?
Olivera: I cannot give you that information until Colonel Seineldin orders me to do so.
Reporter: If necessary, will you resist?
Olivera: Yes.
Reporter: If the Due Obedience Law is repealed, will you consider the case closed?
Olivera: I don't know. I cannot answer your question.

Reporter: Does the salary issue have anything to do with this movement?
Olivera: The overall budget issue, which affects the Army's honor, does.
Reporter: How long will you stay at the Infantry School?
Olivera: Until the end of this episode.
Reporter: Is it going to take a long time?
Olivera: I think so.
Reporter: Are there groups in other military sectors that share your thinking?
Olivera: There are many groups.
Reporter: To what armed service do they belong?
Olivera: They are all Army groups. This is an internal Army problem.
Reporter: If Gen Caridi goes there, what are you going to do?
Olivera: You should address this question to Col Seineldin.
Reporter: If a government official goes there, will you talk to him?
Olivera: I believe the answer would be no because this is an internal Army problem, not a government one.
Reporter: The defense minister himself, who is your superior, could be the one to approach you.
Olivera: In that case we would consider it.

Defense Ministry Communique

PY0212143888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1417 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Communique issued by Defense Ministry, read by Defense Ministry Spokesman Faustino Altamirano; from the Defense Ministry building—live]

[Text] I will read the communique, and I will not make any additional statement. The communique states:

Concerning measures adopted by the Army to nullify the criminal actions carried out by a group installed at the Infantry School, the deployment of necessary troops to that area has been ordered.

Therefore, the people are hereby urged to avoid gathering on the access highways and in areas near Campo de Mayo to prevent personal accidents or obstacles to military personnel and to thus contribute to a quick and easy solution to the current situation.

Alfonsin: Actions 'Despicable'

PY0212152588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1502 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—At noon today Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said that President Raul Alfonsin has been informed about the act of insubordination in Campo de Mayo, an act he termed as despicable.

In a statement to Radio Mitre, Lopez regretted that while the president goes around the world demanding better conditions for Argentine economic development—for which he will address the UN General Assembly [UNGA] today—there are small groups that violate the law and constitutional order.

The spokesman reiterated that President Alfonsin will arrive in the country tomorrow morning and asserted that the necessary measures to crush this act of insubordination are being taken.

This afternoon President Alfonsin will address the UNGA. He will then go from New York to Washington to hold a 1-hour meeting with U.S. President-elect George Bush.

Alfonsin will then return to New York, from where he will leave for Buenos Aires.

Caridi Orders All Forces Ready

PY0212153588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1520 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dante Caridi today ordered all Army personnel to be at the disposal of the operations that are under way to crush the act of insubordination in Campo de Mayo.

Military sources have also reported that Gen Caridi will probably move to the Campo de Mayo zone to personally conduct the actions. Caridi will seek the surrender of the troops occupying the Infantry School, presumably under the command of Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

Rebel Leader's Background

PY0212174788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1540 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Army Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, leader of the military uprising at the Infantry School in Campo de Mayo, traveled from Panama to Uruguay without concealing his identity and from there boarded a plane, accompanied by another eight people, and clandestinely entered the country today.

According to the National Immigrations Directorate, Seineldin—who headed one of the commando groups that fought in the Malvinas war—was not on today's list of people who entered the country.

However, another version of the illegal entry story states that officers of the Argentine Naval Prefecture "Albatross" squadron, who last night abandoned their headquarters in Olivos, had allegedly organized commando operations to remove him in a speed boat from the Uruguayan City of Carmelo.

Seineldin was military attache at the Argentine Embassy in Panama until late 1986 and since then has been employed by the former Panamanian National Guard, under General Jose Antonio Noriega's command, to train elite commandos, in which he is considered an expert.

The Argentine officer received a salary of $5,000 per month, an automobile, and house in a compound where Panamanian officers live.

Seineldin's contract with the former Panamanian National Guard expires on 13 December and he has allegedly decided not to renew it. According to intelligence sources, Seineldin allegedly refused to extend the contract some 2 months ago.

More on Seineldin's Background

PY0212203188 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1735 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Earlier this year Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, leader of the new military crisis in Argentina, was considered for promotion next year to the rank of general. His name, however, was not included in the list that was sent to the Senate. In military jargon, this measure meant that he was relieved of command pending further assignment.

Seineldin, 54, is of Syrian descent. He became an anti-American ultranationalist Catholic following his training by the U.S. Army at the famous West Point Military Academy.

The presumed leader of the uprising at the Campo de Mayo Infantry School is an officer that commands great respect from his subordinates, particularly after his distinguished participation in the Malvinas war against Great Britain in 1982, when he commanded the 7th Regiment.

Seineldin made a clandestine return to the country in the last 24 hours after flying from Panama to Montevideo. Seineldin served from 1984 as military attache at the Argentine Embassy in Panama. He later trained Panamanian security forces following a special request from the Panamanian Government.

During his assignment in Panama, Seineldin created at least five training institutes for the National Guard and was distinguished by Panamanian Government with the "Omar Torrijos" Silver Cross.

His comrades consider him to be a true professional and a very charismatic leader.

As an infantry officer, he was the first instructor of Argentine commando groups. He created the 601 Group that fought in the Malvinas Islands.

Seineldin was also commander of "Los Halcones," a group of security forces that operated in Buenos Aires during the world soccer tournament in 1978 under the direct orders of former General Guillermo Suarez Mason.

The commando group "Los Halcones" was in charge of security during the tournament.

General Teofilo Goyret once said that Seineldin "has the fanaticism of all converts," and that he applies this fanaticism to all other aspects of his life.

Gassino To Meet With Rebels

PY0212182388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1740 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—A high-ranking Army source has confirmed tht General Francisco Gassino is at the Infantry School in Campo de Mayo and will allegedly hold talks with the head of the uprising, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

The source consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS thus dismissed rumors stating that the person inside the unit occupied by the rebels was Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi.

Rebels Take Videla, Rios' Prison

PY0212174588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1740 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—The mayor of Magdalena has reported that the military prison in which Lieutenant General Jorge Videla and Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico are being held was taken today by rebel forces.

More Rebel Troops Enter Base

PY0212182888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1755 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Three Naval Prefecture trucks carrying military personnel entered the Infantry School today shortly after 1530 [1730 GMT]. As the trucks entered the school, those on board shouted slogans in support of Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin and Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

A few moments earlier, two jeeps carrying Engineering School personnel arrived at the Infantry School to join the rebels.

An officer dressed in a military uniform, who identified himself as Lieutenant Colonel Solari, also entered the Infantry School. Upon leaving the school, he said: "I came to convey my solidarity with Seineldin."

Guards at gate 2 Bis, who were believed to be loyal to Caridi, unexpectedly put down their weapons and allowed the rebels to enter the school after conferring with the officers in charge of the three Naval Prefecture vehicles.

Magdalena Prison Surrounded

PY0212182788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Luis Brunati, the minister of government of Buenos Aires Province, confirmed today shortly before 1600 [1800 GMT] that the Magdalena intendant has informed him that the military penitentiary in Magdalena has been surrounded and that two bombs have been planted in the jurisdiction of Buenos Aires Province. The bombs, however, were detonated by security forces.

Speaking to Radio Mitre, Brunati reported that he has ordered the self-confinement of the Buenos Aires Province police and that the guard has been reinforced in strategic locations.

Brunati called on the citizenry "to defend democracy" and to remain calm.

Seineldin: No Coup d'Etat

PY0212180788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1810 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Today Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, head of the military uprising, said that "officers from other units are joining" his movement, and added: "This is not (repeat not) intended to be a coup d'etat. This is merely an attempt to restore military honor in the Army and to review sentences that punish the righteous and promote the guilty." Col Seineldin did not explain to which sentences and trials he was referring.

Col Seineldin today referred to himself as "an Army operations commander who has taken up arms against the Army chiefs." He explained that he is heading a rebellion that "aims at definitely restoring the honor" of the military.

In an interview with journalists stationed at the Infantry School, Seineldin said the unit where he is camping with "some 400 other Army members" was occupied early this morning. He added that Colonel Edgardo Jesus Parellada, head of the Infantry School, "chose to leave the unit, and received the appropriate honors on the occasion."

Seineldin explained that most of the personnel under his command are "parachutists and commandos," in addition to four or five members of the Navy Prefecture who do not belong to the "Albatross" group.

Seineldin refused to grant a recorded interview to the journalists, but talked with them for a short time. He said "officers of other units" are joining his rebellion.

Seineldin asserted: "This is not a coup d'etat, we are not trying to upset the Constitutional order, we are merely trying to restore the military honor in the Army and force a revision of the trials that punish the righteous and promote the guilty."

Caridi Talks With Seineldin

PY0212183388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1810 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—A high-ranking Army source has said that Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi has been talking for the past hour with the head of the rebels, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, in an attempt to find a solution to the crisis.

The source, who was consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, thus clarified earlier reports which stated that the person inside the unit occupied by the rebels was General Francisco Gassino.

The source said that "Caridi had gone with great determination, and a prompt solution can be expected."

The source also asserted that "the incident in the Magdalena prison, caused by an act of indiscipline by members of the 8th Tank Regiment that moved toward that prison, had been solved."

Prison Attack Foiled

PY0212184388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1826 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] La Plata, 2 Dec (DYN)—Luis Brunatti, Buenos Aires Province minister of government, has confirmed that Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico "and rebel groups" have "attempted" to take over the Magdalena Military Prison, but that the attempt was thwarted by the Nacional Gendarmery guarding the prison.

Brunatti said that he did not have any reports of armed confrontations or injuries.

An officer on duty later confirmed to DYN that "everything is now calm" at the prison.

Navy Situation Said Normal

PY0212191488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1838 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—A high-ranking Navy source this afternoon said that an investigation into all the garrisons throughout the country has revealed that the situation within the Navy is "absolutely normal."

The source told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that a conversation with the Puerto Belgrano Base 1 hour ago revealed that the situation is also normal there.

Prison Seizure Denied

PY0212191088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1845 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—The Defense Ministry this afternoon officially denied that the rebels have seized the Magdalena prison, where former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is being held under arrest.

Ministry spokesman Faustino Altamirano declined to say whether there had been an attempt to seize the prison but said that "the situation in the prison is now in control."

Caridi Leaves School; No Accord

PY0212194988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1920 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi at 1605 left the Infantry School in Campo de Mayo without reaching any accord with rebel leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, with whom he talked for more than 1 hour.

According to a report released this afternoon by Radio Corrientes Director Natalio Aides, rebel sources have said that "Gen Caridi ignored the problems that were outlined to him. We believe that the situation is quite complicated."

Rebel sources told Radio Corrientes that the unit is preparing for combat, because "our decision is to defend Campo de Mayo to the end." Rebels added that "our morale is high and the military troops that laid siege to the school have sided with us."

The sources stressed that Caridi did not ask Seineldin to surrender.

Mortar Shells Hit Near School

PY0212200388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1945 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—Three mortar explosions were heard in the vicinity of the Campo de Mayo Infantry School at 1730. The mortar fire came from loyal forces, who fired the shells at the access to the Infantry School, which has been seized by a group of rebels.

The shells, which exploded some 70 meters from the school gate, made the rebels run and take their combat positions.

Isolated rifle shots followed almost immediately.

Seineldin, Caridi Meet

PY0212212488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2112 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin left the Infantry School shortly before 1900 [2100 GMT] to hold a second negotiation session with Army Commander General Jose Caridi, who is reportedly with the loyal troops in the Buenos Aires locality of Don Torcuato.

Before entering a light blue Ford Falcon, the rebel commander said that his main demand refers to a "national pacification law."

Seineldin: Meeting 'Positive'

PY0212215988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2141 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—The leader of the rebels of the Infantry School, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, returned to the Infantry School at 1933 apparently after meeting with Army Chief Lieutenant General Dante Caridi. Seineldin commented to one of his aides that the meeting was positive.

Seineldin returned in the same Ford Falcon in which he left at 1835.

Another five Ford Falcons passed about 100 meters from the school's main entrance apparently in the direction of the fourth entrance where the loyal forces command is located.

School Entrance Mined

PY0212215288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2120 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Shortly after 1900 two members of the rebel group began planting mines around the entrance to the Campo de Mayo Infantry School to prevent the entrance of loyal forces.

Mines Removed From Entrance

PY0212225888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2237 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—Members of the rebel group in the Infantry School of Campo de Mayo at 2013 began removing the mines they planted around the entrance of the school.

Other rebels were seen going into the backyard of the school.

The reporters on the scene said that the situation was more calm. Some of them were able to get water from the rebels.

General Francisco Gassino, director of military institutions, is still inside the Infantry School.

Communique on Troops, Meeting

PY0212234088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2255 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—At 2045 the Defense Ministry released the following communique:

Lieutenant General Jose Dante Caridi, chief of general staff, in accordance with instructions from the executive branch, took measures to check the action of the rebel groups.

As a consequence:

1. Brigade General Antonio Gassino, director general of military institutes, was designated commander of operations to repress the rebellion.

2. The movement of troops toward Campo de Mayo then began.

3. At 1745 loyal troops opened fire on the Infantry School.

4. At 1802 the rebels requested a ceasefire and General Caridi met with Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

5. After the meeting with Seineldin, General Caridi withdrew to report to the defense minister on the results of the meeting.

6. There is total calm in all other jurisdictions.

Caridi on Injuries, 'Incident'

PY0212235388 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Interview with Army Commander General Dante Caridi at Government House by unidentified reporters—live]

[Text] [Reporter] General, what is the latest news?

[Caridi] An officer is seriously wounded. He probably died.

[Reporter] General, are you going to grant a news conference or issue a communique?

[Caridi] A communique. There will be no news conference.

[Reporter] Are there personnel seriously wounded? Among the loyal troops, are there personnel seriously wounded?

[Caridi] He is an officer of the Commissioned Officers School. I do not know at this time...

[Reporter, interrupting] Is this incident over, general?

[Caridi] It is over for the time being.

[Reporter] Did you say for the time being, general? How should this be understood? Is it over?

[Caridi] It is over.

[Reporter] Thank you, Gen Caridi.

[Reporter] Now Gen Caridi leaves Government House accompanied by officers under his command.

Martinez: Incident 'Over'

PY0212005488 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Interview with Vice President Victor Martinez by unidentified reporters at Government House in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr Victor Martinez, what can you tell us, Sir?

[Martinez] Well, as you know, there has been a military incident that is a repetition of previous events. It has to some extent left the Argentine people in suspense. We understand, however, that the incident has been overcome. The Defense Ministry and the Army chief of staff will issue a communique. The problem has affected only the Army, and we believe that the problem is over, although we have to deplore the one dead, or at least seriously injured, officer. The situation was limited to this [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Sir, can we say that [words indistinct] the Army?

[Martinez] Absolutely.

[Reporter] Have the terms of the negotiations for a possible solution to this situation been released?

[Martinez] There has been no negotiation whatsoever nor...

[Reporter, interrupting] Dr Martinez, can we say that [words indistinct]?

[Martinez] Colonel Seineldin has taken upon himself the entire responsibility for the incidents, and he has placed himself at the orders of the commander...

[Reporter, interrupting] Is he arrested?

[Martinez] He will stay at the unit in which he rebelled...

[Reporter, interrupting] Will the rebels be removed?

[Martinez] The rebels will be removed, but their leaders will stay there so that their responsibility for the action may be established in keeping with the military code. The other troops will not be removed.

[Reporter] Has the incident been totally overcome? What time will president Alfonsin return tomorrow, Sir?

[Martinez] [words indistinct] possibly.

[Reporter] Will the ceremony of the transfer of power be held here, Sir? Should people feel relieved now?

[Martinez] Right. The Constitution is being respected....

[Reporter, interrupting] We are listening to your message, Dr Martinez....

[Martinez, continuing] ... the different sectors of the community, the political parties, the Council of the Confederation of Democracy, several individual expressions of support, the support from the labor sector, and also from the Armed Forces, which have acted [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Will the Army troops arriving from rural areas remain deployed around Campo de Mayo?

[Martinez] Yes, they will. The loyal forces will remain there.

[Reporter] Doctor, can this incident at Campo de Mayo lead to a declaration of a state of siege?

[Martinez] No way.

[Reporter] What can you now tell the people?

[Martinez] The people should rest calm, because incidents of this kind are likely in a society that still needs more reflection and more maturity. We are, however, taking firm steps toward the consolidation of democracy.

'2-Week Truce' Reported

PY0312030188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0225 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—There was a virtual truce between the rebels and the loyal Army troops deployed in Campo de Mayo this evening, after the clashes that left one officer dead and several injured in the afternoon.

While Vice President Victor Martinez announced that the regular chain of command had been restored, a spokesman for the rebels called the journalists at the gate of the Infantry School and told them that General Dante Caridi and Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin "agreed on a 2-week truce."

The impression that the most violent military uprising against the Army leadership had not ceased—even after the official announcement that it had been resolved—was confirmed when the 10th Logistic Battalion and the 101st Arsenal Battalion of Villa Martelli joined the uprising tonight.

The rebels' spokesman disclosed that "during this truce none" of the rebels "will be punished" and that during this period "our demands will be reviewed" at the highest official level.

Lt 7, a radio station based in Corrientes , aired an interview with a rebel officer who identified himself as Lieutenant Colonel Martinez, who shortly before 2200 [0000 GMT] denied that the situation has returned to normal and reiterated the decision "to continue the struggle to the bitter end."

Political sources close to the government admitted the possibility that a truce for tonight may have been agreed on, thus allowing President Alfonsin, who will return tomorrow, to analyze the rebels' demands personally, except the demand for "an immediate amnesty," which was rejected outright.

Rebels Under Caridi's Command

PY0312032688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—The Defense Ministry officially confirmed tonight that since 2000 the insubordinated members of the Campo de Mayo Infantry School are under the command of Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi and that the situation of the other military units throughout the country "is normal."

The brief communique was read tonight by Defense Ministry spokesman Faustino Altamirano, who refused to answer questions on the current situation in the Army.

The text of the communique was released midway through a meeting being held after midnight by Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena with the chiefs of staff of the three Armed Forces branches.

This is the text of the communique:

At 2000 [2200 GMT] tonight, the mutinous personnel at the Infantry School in Campo de Mayo placed themselves under orders of the Army chief of staff, General Dante Caridi. A document has been written so as to determine responsibility for the events that took place.

The Army chief of staff reported to the nation's vice president on the developments that took place and the general situation in the ranks of the Army.

The situation in all other units of the Army is normal.

Seineldin Briefs Rebels

PY0312121088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1020 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Felix Conforte, chief of the 101st Arsenal Battalion based in Villa Martelli, has reported that before dawn today he held an extensive meeting with Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, the leader of the rebel forces stationed at the Campo de Mayo Infantry School. Conforte said that during this meeting he was briefed on the present situation.

During this meeting, which was attended by all the rebel officers, they assessed the situation resulting from the truce that is in force based on an agreement between Seineldin and Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi.

Conforte told Radio Mitre that this truce will be in force for approximately 15 days. During this period, the rebels will remain self-confined at the Campo de Mayo Infantry School.

Regarding the rebel officers stationed at the 10th Logistics Battalion and the 101st Arsenal Battalion, both of which are stationed in Villa Martelli, Conforte added that they will also remain at their posts.

Agreement Reportedly Reached

PY0312135088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1242 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Felix Conforte, chief of the 10th Logistics Battalion [title as received] of Villa Martelli, today confirmed that Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi and rebel Colonel Seineldin reached "an agreement on several points" which will be fulfilled within "2 weeks."

According to Conforte the agreement includes "the retention of Colonel Seineldin in the Infantry School and an undetermined period of time for Gen Caridi to find a political solution to our demands."

Conforte, who supports the rebels, defined the demands as "the recognition of the struggle against subversion, no more trials, no more imprisonments, higher salaries, and more troops."

Conforte, who was interviewed on the radio program "Talking Around the World," which is broadcast by a local radio station, said that yesterday "Gen Caridi asked Col Seineldin for negotiations and Seineldin agreed. Therefore, a meeting was held and an agreement was reached."

Conforte indicated that "the demands were made, the positions were established. Therefore, from now on the events will develop according to the answer to the demands, and only God knows what the outcome will be."

Conforte also said that "we expect the fulfillment of the promise of no aggression, no military court intervention, and no repression." This is according to the alleged pact between Caridi and Seineldin.

Regarding the procedures used to make the demands, Conforte said that "this is an institutional problem. Col Seineldin and the officers supporting him never had the intention of hurting the basic institutions of the nation."

Conforte concluded by saying that "the stability of the system is not at stake. Our demands, which are known by the public, are under no circumstances attempts against any of the powers of the nation."

Alfonsin Arrives from Washington

PY0312125088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1244 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—At 1235 GMT President Raul Alfonsin arrived at Ezeiza International Airport from the United States.

Spokesman Rules Out Amnesty

PY0312135788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1340 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—In a statement made at Ezeiza International Airport, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said the government has no intention of implementing an amnesty law.

He added that the president's position is firm. Lopez said the president is convinced that this is a transition process and that he will be able to hand over the presidency to his successor next year as planned.

Rebel Demands Noted

PY0312141988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1340 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Corrientes, 3 Dec (NA)—According to a proclamation released today, the rebels headed by Colonel Mohamed Seineldin have demanded, among other things, a law of national pacification [pacificación nacional], the dismissal of all generals, and the recognition of the Army "for its actions, whether right or wrong, in giving the lives of its members in defense of the people and the nation."

According to the document, which was read by reporter Natalid Aides of Radio Provincias of Corrientes, the rebels confirmed this morning that "the movement is inflexible and there is no possibility of going back."

The rebels also demand that the media, in the hands of the state, "not distort reality" and confirm that "Col Seineldin and his forces never surrendered or subordinated themselves to the Army command, a fact that is well known by General Caridi and his staff."

The proclamation demands the following:

1. Law of national pacification and the immediate halt to the trials against military men.

2. Recognition of the Army for its actions, whether right or wrong, in giving the lives of its members in defense of the people and the nation.

3. Special treatment of the Armed Forces budget.

Rico Held Near Mar del Plata

PY0312180388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1441 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Mar del Plata, 3 Dec (TELAM)—Aldo Rico is being held at the 601st Air Defense Artillery Group located in Camet. This was reported at noon today by a major stationed in that unit, who identified himself with the last name Segovia.

Segovia, who was in charge of a military vehicle of the artillery group, confirmed Rico's transfer to that military unit near Mar del Plata, but he refrained from giving details.

Segovia told reporters outside the military garrison: Excuse me, but you should understand the current situation. I cannot give you any further information. He added that the troop movements responded to security measures.

Spokesman Rules Out Truce

PY0312162888 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1541 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Interview with Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez by unidentified reporters at Government House in Buenos Aires—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Lopez]...first a complete report on the situation and the incident. He first held a meeting with the vice president, all cabinet members, and the presidential secretary general. This meeting lasted about 1 hour.

Later, the president met with the defense minister and Army Chief of Staff General Caridi. He then held meetings with Navy Chief of Staff Arosa and with Air Force Chief of Staff Crespo.

After these meetings and after getting a complete picture of the situation, the president gave orders aimed at restoring discipline wherever it is necessary. He hopes that order will be restored today.

[Reporter] Can you tell us what instructions were issued by the president?

[Lopez] The instructions were those that any military commander issues when he is confronted with a state of rebellion, which is the situation affecting a single military unit.

[Reporter] Could you tell us what the situation is at Campo de Mayo right now?

[Lopez] I have no specific information about the situation at Campo de Mayo. Therefore, we believe a rebellion is still taking place in Campo de Mayo. Through the Defense Ministry, the president has instructed the Army chief of staff to restore discipline as soon as possible.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lopez] What did you say?

[Reporter] Do you hope to [words indistinct] today?

[Lopez] The president hopes to overcome the situation today.

[Reporter] Sir, there has been talk that a so-called truce has been declared. We want official information in this regard. There has been talk that a 15-day truce has been implemented. Based on what you have just said, are we correct in believing that the president will not uphold this truce?

[Lopez] There is no possibility of a truce or of negotiations with any rebels.

[Reporter] Will the troops that are now marching on Campo de Mayo camp out near the garrison?

[Lopez] This is strictly military information. Any information concerning troops movements or strictly military issues will be issued at the proper time through Defense Ministry communiques.

[Reporter] Will the president meet with political leaders?

[Lopez] I have no information about that at this time.

[Reporter] Will the president deliver an address to the nation?

[Lopez] I have no information about that either [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Will the president stay at Government House all day?

[Lopez] For the time being he is at Government House. When there is a change you will be properly informed.

[Reporter] Is a cabinet meeting scheduled?

[Lopez] There has already been a cabinet meeting.

La Plata General Cited

PY0312171288 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1634 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] La Plata, 3 Dec (DYN)—General Eugenio Dalton, chief of the 10th Mechanized Infantry Brigade based in La Plata, has confirmed that the troops of the 10th Logistics Battalion based in Villa Martelli are supporting the uprising. However, he added that the other units in the area are under his command: "Despite the unrest that we are experiencing, the situation is normal."

Dalton said: "The units are under their normal commands except for the 10th Logistics Battalion based in Villa Martelli. [no closing quote as received]

He added that "the only vehicles that have left the brigade are communications vehicles that have been installed in different regiments to establish a field radio network to keep the command informed."

Deputy Commander Arrested

PY0312191788 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1846 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (DYN)—The Army announced this afternoon that Colonel Marcelo Zarraga, deputy commander of the San Miguel de Tucuman-based 5th Infantry Brigade, was relieved of his command and placed under arrest.

The Army said Zarraga's decision to send a radiogram in support of the units commanded by Colonel Seineldin was "strictly a personal action" taken by the relieved officer.

Rebels Leave Campo de Mayo

PY0312203288 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2006 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (DYN)—The military rebels who were stationed at the Infantry School left the Campo de Mayo garrison today before 1800. Reporters covering Gate Two Bis said the rebels left in several vehicles going in an unknown direction.

Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, the leader of the rebels, left in a Ford Falcon automobile that sped away from the area. Reporters at the gate recognized Seineldin immediately.

The three trucks stolen from the Prefecture by the Albatross commando group passed through the gate at great speed before Seineldin's car. The trucks were full of personnel and light weapons.

Four medium-sized tanks also left, but one of them got stuck and the rebels decided to leave it behind.

Six Army trucks and two buses carrying military personnel were seen circulating outside the Campo de Mayo Garrison.

It is believed the Infantry School is now completely deserted.

Alfonsin Orders Uprising Smashed

PY0312202788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2010 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—A reliable government source revealed that President Alfonsin has ordered General Dante Caridi to smash the rebellion by midnight.

The spokesman hinted that should Gen Caridi fail to smash the uprising today, he "will have to leave his post."

UCR Urges People To Act

PY0312220588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—The UCR tonight urged all UCR members and the Argentine people to take to the streets to defend democracy within the framework of popular unity.

In a communique, the UCR urged its members and the people to defend the democratic system and the republican institutions.

Alfonsin Addresses Nation

PY0412004888 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2343 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Address to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin's address to the nation from an undisclosed office location on 3 December—live]

[Text] Good evening. In view of the persistent seditious attitude by a faction of the Army who, resorting to illegal procedures, conspire against the efforts of all Argentines, and particularly against those of the majority of the nation's Armed Forces, I have issued orders to subdue the rebels. This afternoon, I was briefed by the Army chief of staff and the corps commanders, who, assuming responsibility for the arms placed in their hands by the Constitution, ratified both their formal commitment to the institutions and their soldiers' decision to comply with the orders received.

These are the same Army chiefs who, early this year, had to assume the painful responsibility of confronting mutinous comrades in arms. That action in loyalty to the Constitution was clearly recognized by all the Argentine people, as well as by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The majority of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force then made their decisive contribution to

the process of consolidating democracy, and today they ratify that decision. This contribution takes on special importance in today's critical and difficult circumstances.

The people are living through hours of tension because they realize that although these absurd attempts at disrupting order are minor and made by a minority, they conspire against the collective effort to strengthen a system of coexistence, tolerance, and freedom. However, I want to assert that these seditious attempts do not pose a threat to the institutions of the Republic or to the powers that are rooted in the popular will.

In the face of their persistence in seditious attitudes, I have ordered that the rebellious group be smashed, though I deplore the use of force and the risk of the lives of our countrymen. But the understanding we have of the problems inherent in our difficult period of transition, the open disposition to address and solve them within the framework of the state of law, and respect for the institutions and the popular will must not be mistaken for weakness or for consent to regressive attitudes.

The order I have issued in the exercise of my constitutional responsibility responds to the same patriotic conviction with which I have acted for 5 years as president of the nation, as I worked for the unity of the nation, for justice, for freedom, and for the greatness of the Republic. Thank you very much.

Rebel Demands 'Unacceptable'

PY0412002188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 2355 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—The Army chief of staff tonight stated that the group of rebel officers demanded the replacement of national authorities.

Herewith is the text of the communique:

"Today the rebel group made unacceptable demands that would violate the Constitution, basic constitutional principles, our legal system, and existing regulations.

"They wanted changes of government and of national officials; the replacement of the Army chief of staff by another general picked by them; and the right to prepare a list of generals, colonels, and lieutenant colonels who would stay on active duty.

"This indicates that Colonel Seineldin has lost control over his subordinates, a circumstance he himself has admitted."

Panamanian 'Complicity' Alleged

PY0412020488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0020 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—The Argentine Government may be considering expelling the Panamanian ambassador from the country and breaking diplomatic relations with Panama due to revelations that rebel Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin received support from that Central American country's government for his "surreptitious entry" into Argentina, a highly placed government source revealed today.

The source said that "the complicity" of the Panamanian Government in the clandestine operation for Seineldin's travel to Argentina "has been proven."

On Tuesday, 29 November, the rebel leader left the Hotel Ceremi (former La Siesta), which is the property of the Panama Defense Forces, where he was lodged, "ostensibly to visit Panamanian military units" located in the country's interior, the source told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS.

The source also said that there is information that Seineldin "walked 500 meters from his hotel to the Tocumen Airport and entered through the rear without been seen. Once there, Seineldin boarded a white Lear jet that General Manuel Noriega normally uses."

The government source said that "after a brief stopover in Paraguay, the jet flew to a private landing strip near the Uruguayan town of Carmelo, where Seineldin was received by a group of rebels with whom he entered Argentine territory."

Although the source did not say so, Seineldin very likely entered Argentina on a regular run of the Buquebus Company. Other sources, however, indicated that Seineldin traveled on a boat of the Argentine Naval Prefecture, aided by rebels in that unit.

The source told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "the complicity of the Panamanian Government became more obvious yesterday when radio stations controlled by General Manuel Noriega in Panama aired proclamations supporting Colonel Seineldin's actions here. Those proclamations were sponsored by the pro-government Panamanist Revolutionary Party, which is led by Toti Suarez."

"All these facts irrefutably demonstrate a foreign government's support for the seditious leader, and therefore the Argentine authorities are studying the possibility of suspending or breaking diplomatic relations with Panama," the source said.

Finally, the same source added that "the government is also studying the possibility of 'immediately recalling' the Argentine ambassador to Panama, Bernardo Sola."

Noriega's Plane Allegedly Used

PY0412203888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1903 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (EFE)—Diplomatic soruces have told EFE that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, head of the Argentine military rebellion, used a plane belonging to Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega to come from that country to Argentina last Wednesday, 30 November.

The same sources asserted that Seineldin's departure from Panama was also authorized by Noriega.

Seineldin was helped by the former Panamanian military attache to Buenos Aires, Major Oscar Castrellon, who was dismissed from his post a few months ago at the request of the Argentine Government for allegedly "destabilizing political activities."

Castrellon returned to Argentina 7 days ago from Israel, his new post, to finance Seineldin's rebellion, according to diplomatic sources.

Panama's Ritter Denies Charges

PY0412053988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0523 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has called his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo, to convey to him the Panamanian Government's concern about some news agency reports charging Panama with having supported rebel Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry Press Office reported early this morning that Ritter has flatly denied these reports and has reaffirmed Panama's full solidarity with the Argentine constitutional government and its democratic institutions.

Envoy on Seineldin's Asylum

PY0512172688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1705 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM)—Eligio Salas Dominguez, the Panamanian ambassador to Argentina, has asserted that no Panamanian diplomat has offered political asylum to Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, the leader of the rebellion.

In a statement to the Buenos Aires Radio Splendid program ESTO QUE PASA, Ambassador Salas Dominguez categorically denied that the Panamanian Government has helped in anyway the uprising, which has been put down in an exemplary manner.

Salas Dominguez added that Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma has personally told him that Panama will grant political asylum to Colonel Seineldin only if President Alfonsin requests it.

Democracy 'Not in Danger'

PY0412023988 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0218 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (DYN)—Rebel leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin reaffirmed tonight that the democratic institutions "are not in danger," and he stressed that "the movement has no political motivation, but only military causes."

At midnight, the rebel officers called three journalists from private Buenos Aries radio stations onto the military unit's premises and read to them two communiques signed by Seineldin.

The first communique notes that the rebel chief "continues in command of the Virgen del Valle operation," the name the rebels used for the first time to refer to the military uprising.

The second communique stresses that the democratic institutions "are not in danger," and that "the movement has no political motivations, but only military causes."

The representatives of the media were met by a captain who declined to reveal his name and who read the two communiques in a strong voice.

Air Force Redeployment

PY0412040188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0347 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—After 0130 [0330 GMT] today the Air Force announced that some units are being redeployed to ensure their effective contribution to supporting the republican institutions.

Herewith is the text of the communique released to the press by an Air Force spokesman:

In order not to alarm the people, the Argentine Air Force hereby informs the public that it is proceeding to redeploy some of its units to ensure their effective contribution in supporting the republican institutions. The national officials have been informed of these actions.

Alfonsin Message to Loyal Forces

PY0412050888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0406 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin today sent a radiogram to all forces units. The text of the radiogram, which was released by the Army General Staff shortly before 0200, follows:

1. The commander in chief of the Armed Forces appreciates your contribution to strengthening our basic republican institutions in this process of consolidating democracy, as well as your dedicated service to the nation amid a difficult economic situation he is aware of.

2. He emphasizes the determined, courageous action of those devoted to putting down acts of sedition despite having to confront their own comrades, thus defending the basic pillars of the Armed Forces.

3. He urges everyone to carefully analyze the extreme situation that can be provoked by seeking solutions through mistaken ways.

4. He urges everyone to be alert to the violent actions promoted by some groups that are out of step with history. These groups disguise their true objectives, which are based in a view of the world that is distorted by extremist ideologies.

5. He fully supports the actions taken by the leadership of the Armed Forces.

6th Mechanized Regiment Rebels

PY0412061388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0546 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (DYN)—The 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, Buenos Aires Province, revolted early this morning. According to military sources, a rebellious major took charge of the regiment, located 100 km west of the federal capital.

The rebels arrested the regiment commander, Lieutenant Colonel Anibal Labella, as well as the deputy commander.

An unidentified major took charge of the regiment, whose personnel were in a state of insurrection.

Rebel 'Divisions' Alleged

PY0412091588 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0551 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] In today's issue, the newspaper LA NACION carries an article on page 17 which states that after midnight on 3 December, the UCR bloc leader distributed a communique among reporters accredited to Congress. It adds that this communique reports that there is disagreement among the rebel military officers in Villa Martelli.

The Defense Ministry communique reads:

There are intense discussions among the rebel officers about the development of the sitution and the paths to follow. Their demands are not very clear.

The rebels isolation is causing divisions.

A first lieutenant, with his face painted black, said the rebels' questions about Seineldin's personality are increasing as the hours pass. He added that many believe this is a personal issue. They wonder what will happen if things go right for them.

Cordoba Brigade Joins Rebels

PY0412094788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0940 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—According to a report issued by the military unit guard through a communique read over the telephone, the 4th Air-Transport Brigade based in Cordoba has joined the rebel forces headed by Colonel Mohamed Seineldin.

The communique adds: "As of now, we disavow the authority of the III Corps commander and of the Army chief of staff."

It adds that the unit remains subordinate to General Etcheum, commander of the 4th Air-Transport Infantry Brigade.

Insurrection of Brigade Denied

PY0412132988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1240 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cordoba, 4 Dec (NA)—Colonel Rodolfo Quintana, deputy commander of the 4th Air Transport Brigade, has denied that this unit has joined the rebellion led by Colonel Mohamed Seineldin. He added, however, that the insurrection was unleashed because the Army staff did not respond to "the claims raised by [words indistinct]."

He told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "we have to wait and see." He said this when explaining the reasons for Seineldin's attitude.

Quintana said that the Army staff leadership, headed by General Jose Dante Caridi, "has not responded to the claims that were made by the cadres over one year ago." The Army officer declined to specify these claims.

He added: "We have requested an answer" to our concerns, but he did not specify when the claims were submitted. He also reasserted that the brigade complies with the chain of command.

Spokesman on Artillery Use

PY0412130588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1244 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez this morning said that the loyal forces "will surely use artillery in the action" to crush the insurrection in the Villa Martelli Battalion. He added that in view of this "the presence of civilians in the area is very dangerous."

At 1230, Lopez met with Government House journalists. He urged the demonstrators near the Villa Martelli Battations to leave the site because "their presence does not help the forces defending democracy."

In addition, Lopez reported that Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena is "constantly" briefing President Alfonsin "on the development of operations being carried out to restore order and discipline in the Army."

He said that "President Alfonsin has been at his Government House desk since 1000 GMT. He spent the night at Government House and is in constant contact with the defense minister."

Lopez added that this morning the president "received numerous telephone calls," among them one from Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who is in New York.

Spokesman: "No Negotiations"

PY0412151888 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1440 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (DYN)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez has said that the loyalist forces are delaying their attack on the rebel military forces because "they want to carry out the operation with the fewest possible casualties."

Questioned by journalists accredited to Government House, Lopez said: "There are no deadlines for unleashing the repression." But he categorically reasserted that "there will be no negotiations with the rebels."

He added that President Alfonsin is meeting at the Interior Ministry with Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia and the leaders of the majority parties. He said the objective of this meeting "is exclusively to greet them and to express our gratitude for their solidarity with democracy."

Alfonsin, who attended the meeting for only 5 minutes, said that "all of us must thank these parties for the solidarity they have expressed, not with the UCR, but with the democratic system."

Lopez also confirmed that Alfonsin met with the three Armed Forces commanders, but he explained that the Army was represented by General Miguel Abatte "because General Caridi is in charge of crushing the rebellion."

Troop Movements Reported

PY0412154888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1512 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Shortly after 1300 local time the Army General Staff reported on the operation to crush the rebels.

Herewith is text of the communique:

Armored units are moving along the Pan-American Highway toward its intersection with General Paz Avenue to begin operations against the rebels.

Another column of armored and artillery units is moving along General Paz Avenue toward the combat [as received] zone.

Troops of the 2d Armored Brigade are moving along National Highway 9, currently approaching Campana, to join the attacking forces.

The fourth column, made up of the 9th Infantry Brigade, began moving from El Palomar toward Villa Martelli.

Three armored units left Palermo and are moving to join Army chief of staff forces as reserves.

Sixth Mountain Infantry Brigade troops will arrive at El Palomar Air Base at 1400 today on board Argentine Air Force planes.

A column of vehicles from the Central Military Hospital is moving toward the area of operations to provide medical support.

Rebels Say Montoneros Near

PY0412161588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1537 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—A spokesman for the rebels that have dug in at the 10th Logistics Regiment in Villa Martelli stated that "members of revolutionary Peronism" have been detected in the neighborhood of the rebel unit and urged them "to abstain from using their weapons."

A captain who supports Colonel Mohamed Seineldin read a communique at 1515 stating that: "Having detected the presence of members of revolutionary Peronism who have the support of the Montoneros, we warn them to disband and refrain from using their weapons; otherwise, Seineldin's forces will act accordingly."

Spain Criticizes Rebellion

PY0412164588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1622 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Madrid, 4 Dec (TELAM-EFE)—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez severely criticized the rebellion of a group of Argentine military men and said that they do not seem to understand that civilian power prevails in Argentina.

The Spanish foreign minister warned against any attempt to stage a coup d'etat in Argentina by stressing that the cooperation agreements signed in January this year by the two countries will not be valid under a government that has taken power by force, because the terms of those agreements are applicable only to democratic governments.

Rebel Regiment Surrounded

PY0412173488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1637 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] La Plata, 4 Dec (TELAM)—At approximately 1420 local time, loyalist troops were assuming positions around the rebellious 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment in Mercedes.

It is believed that the loyalist troops belong to other units subordinate to the 10th Lieutenant Nicolas Levalle Brigade, to which the 6th Regiment also belongs—specifically, troops of the 7th Regiment of the 10th Brigade, which is commanded by General Eugenio Dalton.

The impression is that the loyalist troops are awaiting the developments in Villa Martelli and will act accordingly, although it is possible that the maneuver is to prevent the 6th Regiment from moving to help the rebels commanded by Colonel Seineldin.

Rebels' Power, Water Cut

PY0412173788 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1657 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (DYN)—Guillermo Cornet, finance secretary of Mercedes City Hall, this afternoon reported that the Buenos Aires Province Power Department has cut the power supply to the rebellious 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment headquartered in Mercedes.

Speaking to Radio Rivadavia, Cornet added that the regiment's water supply has also been cut.

Air Force, Navy Ordered Ready

PY0412165788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1650 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—President Raul Alfonsin, "acting as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in view of the military situation, and in order to preserve the stability of the institutions and the state of law, has ordered the Air Force and the Navy to move to the state of readiness in order to support the operation underway by the Argentine Army to repress the rebels."

This information was officially released shortly after 1445 local time.

'Main Enterprises' To Strike

PY0412194188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1653 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—After a meeting with Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, the main enterprises today decided to suspend productive activities tomorrow.

This information was disclosed by Gilberto Montagna, first vice president of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), who justified the measure as a means to express their full support for the government in defense of the institutions.

Alfonsin Thanks CGT for Support

PY0412200188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1658 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin has thanked Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the General Confederation of Labor [CGT], for the solidarity expressed by this confederation.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez disclosed that Alfonsin told Ubaldini the CGT's support came as no surprise.

Civilians Near Rebel Base

PY0412174288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Federal and Buenos Aires provincial police were trying at 1450 to clear civilians who had gathered around the tanks of loyalist forces in front of the Villa Martelli military unit. The tanks are parked along General Paz Avenue, occupying approximately 200 meters of the avenue.

The people have reacted by throwing rocks at the policemen and moving toward the entrance to the rebel battalion. The rebels repelled them by using tear gas and shooting into the air.

III Corps Commander Cited

PY0412182688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1710 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Cordoba, 4 Dec (DYN)—III Corps Commander General Roberto Dominguez has left his office at corps headquarters, northeast of Cordoba, and has gone to the 141st Communications Battalion, south of the city.

In a brief news conference, Gen Dominguez said: "I have not resigned, nor will I do so," as commander of the III Corps.

Dominguez' move to the communications battalion has cast further doubts on the status of the many powerful units that make up the III Corps.

Status of III Corps Unclear

PY0412180088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1726 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (DYN)—The governor of Cordoba Province has called for a demonstration in front of the provincial government house at 1900 local time. He made this call after a meeting with the leaders of all provincial political parties.

The government made this decision after receiving information that the main units of the III Corps headquartered in this province are virtually insubordinate.

The commander of the 4th Airborne Brigade, General Adolfo Patricio Etcheun, told journalists this morning that he "shares Seineldin's ideas, which are also those of most of the Army," and implicitly admitted that his unit had rebelled by announcing that he would not repress the rebels in Villa Martelli.

Meanwhile, the status of the III Corps commander, General Roberto Dominguez, remained unclear. He was staying at his office this afternoon after having had lunch at home.

Apparently Dominguez failed to arrest Etcheun, and he is being considered virtually retired.

Campo de Mayo Rebels Arrested

PY0412180688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1753 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—The rebels at the Campo de Mayo Infantry School "commanded by Major Brun surrendered unarmed and were arrested on orders from General Enrique Bianchi," according to information released by the Army General Staff this afternoon. This information was officially released at 1750.

Rebel Reinforcements Intercepted

PY0412192788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] La Plata, 4 Dec (NA)—Buenos Aires Provincial Police sources have reported that troops led by General Eugenio Dalton, commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade, intercepted at noon today rebel forces that were on their way to reinforce the Villa Martelli regiment, the focal point of the military rebellion. The interception took place near Lujan.

According to the report, Gen Dalton left La Plata at 0700 today leading a task force of three tanks, two armored cars, and eight support vehicles manned by personnel of the 10th Brigade headquarted in La Plata. Gen Dalton was heading for Mercedes, where the 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment had engaged in a breach of discipline.

The intercept took place at the intersection of highways No 5 and No 7—a place known as the Lujan traffic circle.

Dalton's task force used their armored vehicles to block the highways and stop the rebel column, which was being led by Major Horacio Abete.

Salta Officers Rebel

PY0412190888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1850 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Salta, 4 Dec (NA)—Approximately 30 officers with blackened faces rebelled just after 1600 [1800 GMT] in the 5th Mountain Engineers Company of this city. So far they have limited themselves to cutting traffic in the area, located 1 km from the city's downtown area.

The alleged rebels refused to talk with the press to explain their motives. The company's press chief, Captain Carson, stated that the "situation is normal."

The military action has affected traffic in the neighborhood of the Salta Province Engineers Company, which is located on Arenales Avenue, in the northern sector of the capital.

Rebels Hold Infantry School

PY0412203488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 2002 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—There is a confusing situation regarding the Campo de Mayo Infantry School which, according to an official Army communique, has been recovered by troops loyal to General Dante Caridi.

An investigation carried out by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS journalists has established that the school remains in the hands of the rebels, who stated that "they will only get us out of here dead."

The rebels, with blackened faces, have all the entrances to the Infantry School mined, while the perimeter of the unit is strongly patrolled by personnel armed with FAL submachineguns and equipped with heavy machineguns.

One of the rebels, who agreed to talk with NA although he refused to give his identity and rank, stressed that "there are 300 veteran Malvinas commandos in here, and we are prepared to win."

The rebel was dressed in combat fatigues, had his face blackened, and was carrying a FAL loaded with an antitank projectile.

Communique on Operations

PY0412205188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2044 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—The Army General Staff issued a communique at 1835 [2035 GMT] which reads:

1. The Army General Staff has ordered the cessation of all operations.

2. The rebels will hand over all weapons in their possession and withdraw all bombs planted. This operation will be supervised by General Isidro Caceres.

3. An expanded communique will follow.

Loyal Troops Leave Villa Martelli

PY0412212588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—The loyal troops who participated in controlling the rebels at Villa Martelli left that place just after 1830 [2030 GMT] in columns of tanks, troop transports, and equipment.

Along some stretches of General Paz Avenue, and even in the neighborhood of the garrison, groups of demonstrators tried to put up barricades to stop the withdrawal of the loyal troops, probably because they thought the troops were giving up the fight.

The demonstrators chanted "cowards, cowards, the same as Caridi and Seineldin." Some of the demonstrators threw stones at the vehicles and broke the windshield of one vehicle.

The people also set fire to the tarpaulin of a truck and stoned the windows of a bus that was transporting Buenos Aires provincial police. One policeman was injured.

Alfonsin: Seineldin 'Lunatic'

PY0412221288 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2146 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (DYN)—"We are dealing with a lunatic" were President Raul Alfonsin's first words at noon today in the Interior Ministry, referring to rebel Colonel Seineldin during a briefing to the main Argentine political leaders, according to a reliable source at the meeting.

Alfonsin made this statement several hours before General Caridi and Colonel Seineldin reached an agreement to cease military operations.

With a firm voice, although obviously tired, the president explained the developments after personally greeting each of the 30 political leaders who attended the meeting at the Coat of Arms Hall. He added: "You may rest assured that I will not negotiate."

Alfonsin then expressed regret that the rebel officer had (?trained) "large groups of officers" during the past few years, many of whom are allegedly his followers now. [passage omitted]

CGT Lifts 5 Dec Strike

PY0512002888 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2216 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (DYN)—The CGT [General Confederation of Labor] today decided to lift the 24-hour strike it had called for 5 December to protest the military crisis.

Secretary General Saul Ubaldini gave the official news to DYN.

Construction Union Lifts Strike

PY0512003188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2226 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Roberto Sanmartino, president of the Argentine Construction Union, has reported that the 12 business organizations have decided to lift the strike that was to have been carried out on 5 December in view of the fact that the situation has now become normalized, a thing that we celebrate with satisfaction.

Eduardo de Zavalia, secretary of the Argentine Rural Society, which is a member of the business front, has indicated that a copy of the joint communique has already been given to Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

President Thanks Supporters

PY0412232288 Buenos Aires Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2231 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Address to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin from the White Hall of Government House—live]

[Text] I want to thank each and every one of you. I want to thank you who during all these days have been reporting, supporting, and working for the institutions of the nation and, as a consequence, for democracy.

I want to thank the Argentine nation as a whole. I want to thank all sectors, inlcuding the various political sectors of the nation. There was no discrimination in this episode. I want to thank the labor unions, the General Confederation of Labor, and the various enterprises that eloquently voiced their solidarity with the institutions of the nation. I want to thank the friendly countries who have voiced their concern and solidarity. I want to thank the Armed Forces as a whole, who were able to carry out this operation as we planned, following instructions and using dissuasion. This represents a truly important achievement because, taking into account the great disparity of the forces, dissuasion was possible. As my mother would have said, God had a say in the matter. And this is true because, to achieve this result without having to regret the great risk of bloodshed we ran, is something to be thankful for. Yesterday we stated that the institutions were not at risk, and we can confirm this now. We continue in our task of strengthening democracy. It is a task that should be shared by all in the framework of liberty.

The Argentine people will continue their discussions, sometimes in loud and angry voices. But in continuing these discussions we will be exercising our rights, our responsibilities, our freedom.

I think this also puts an end to widespread doubts about the real way of thinking of the Armed Forces. No concessions of any kind have been made. There has been discipline. I want to emphasize the example set once again by the Armed Forces because, within the framework of the economic difficulties they are facing—of the tight budget—they have fulfilled their duties; they have served the institutions of the nation.

I also want to express my appreciation to the chiefs of staff who fulfilled the orders they received, and especially to the Army chief of staff, who continues to enjoy my confidence and who has clearly shown us what military honor and loyalty to the president of the nation mean.

I also want to note all the support received by the military household of the presidency, and particularly the task fulfilled by the glorious San Martin Grenadiers Regiment.

I thank all of you. We will simply continue to carry out our duties, each and every one of us in our areas, convinced that the Argentine nation will continue to grow in democracy and freedom

Thank you very much.

Alfonsin: Rebels Lay Down Arms

PY0412233088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2234 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—The rebel military men have laid down their weapons and the head of the rebellion, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, will remain under arrest at the headquarters of the Army staff after the [words indistinct] removal of the mines, the fortifications, and other obstacles.

This was officially reported this afternoon at Government House by presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, who read an official communique that states that President Raul Alfonsin has reiterated his confidence in Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi, who will remain in his post.

Following is the text of the communique:

In the company of the defense minister, the Army chief of staff presented himself to the president to inform him of the tasks carried out in accordance with the instructions that he had received. He reported that the rebels have laid down their weapons and that under the supervision of General Isidro Caceres the task of receiving the rebel weapons and removing mines, fortifications, and other obstacles is now being carried out.

General Caridi also reported that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin takes full blame for the incidents and that upon conclusion of the task he has been ordered to carry out he will remain under arrest on the premises of the Army staff. Caridi also reported that military justice will take the appropriate steps to ascertain who was responsible for the incidents.

Caridi also told the president that he denies any report referring to alleged negotiations or demands. The president has reiterated his confidence in Caridi; thus, Caridi remains in his post. [passage omitted]

Infantry School Leader Submits

PY0512024388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 0227 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—Major Luis Alberto Brun, who was at the head of the rebel troops in the Infantry School, tonight abandoned his previous attitude and is now subordinate to the regular commanders, thus ending the act of indiscipline at that military unit.

The decision to abandon his attitude was made by Major Brun after receiving a message carried to the Campo de Mayo Infantry School by an Army officer.

Brun noted that "we are not against the government. We only think that sometimes a series of mistakes made by the political leadership [passage indistinct] Argentine Army is going to question the democratic regime, but we would like society to respect some values that must be discussed and are reasonable," he said.

Major Brun stated that "we are going to return to complete normalcy in obeying the orders established by the chain of command."

"Complete normalcy means to reintegrate, to assume responsibility. In my case, my responsibility is that of having occupied the Infantry School after abandoning the Superior War School in support of Colonel Seineldin," Brun stated.

Asnwering NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS as to whether he had any knowledge that Colonel Seineldin had surrendered to the loyal forces, Brun indicated that "we do not use the word surrender, we use the term negotiation."

He stated that "regarding the chain of command, the top brass negotiated in the true sense of the word."

Asked to define the word negotiation, he said, "I do not know who negotiated, but I imagine it was at a responsible level, that of the generals and the president (Alfonsin) himself." [passage omitted]

Caridi-Seineldin 'Agreement'

PY0512030888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0254 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] La Plata, 4 Dec (NA)—Radio Provincia de Buenos Aires, a station that belongs to Buenos Aires Province Government, today disseminated during a news program the alleged seven points of the agreement between General Dante Caridi and Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, which includes an amnesty in May of next year.

This information disseminated by Radio Provincia is not attributed to any special source.

According to the radio report, the following are the seven points:

1. Caridi is to leave within 5 days, and General Isidro Caceres is to take his job.

2. The modification of Articles 1 and 2 of the Due Obedience Law, which means that area commanders who acted in the fight against subversion will not be punished.

3. Suspension of all trials for violations of human rights.

4. Amnesty on 14 May.

5. A better budget.

6. That only Colonel Seineldin be punished for this latest rebellion.

7. To regard the developments of this weekend as a rebellion and take the case before the military courts.

Civilians, Police Clash

PY0512150188 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1106 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (DYN)—Three people, including one policeman, have been killed as a result of the clashes between civilians and Buenos Aires police forces. The clashes occurred yesterday minutes after the rebel troops at the Villa Martelli regiment laid down their weapons.

When the solution to the crisis was announced, demonstrators began to hurl sharp objects at the policemen on duty. Bursts of machinegun fire and isolated gun shots were heard.

It was later established that Policeman Sergio Alderete of the Moron Police precinct had sustained a bullet wound in the head from which he later died.

Two civilians, who have been identified as Rogelio Rodriguez, 48 years old, and Jorge Nicolas, 18 years old, also died from bullet wounds in the head.

According to reports supplied by Police Chief Jose Garcia, from the Matanza Regional Police Force, "when the rebellion ended, some 600 policemen who were trying to disperse civilians from the area were shot at from behind, apparently by sharpshooters in the battalion area."

Eyewitnesses and Buenos Aires Province Interior Ministry sources have reported that "after (General) Caridi had left the scene of the incident, two cars left the regiment compound at high speed. The occupants of these cars fired rubber bullets at the people. This sparked anger among the demonstrators and a clash ensued." [passage omitted]

A Buenos Aires provincial government communique states that "two Ford Falcons left the barracks at high speed." Their occupants fired "rubber and regular bullets" at the civilian demonstrators.

It adds that the attitude of the alleged military officers "angered the demonstrators, who tried to enter the military unit."

In view of the general disorder that ensued, the police repressed the demonstrators using tear gas, night sticks, and guns.

An assault car was set on fire and destroyed by unidentified people. Several patrol cars had their windows broken.

The Buenos Aires provincial government and provincial police have officially reported that five policemen have been hospitalized, two of them in critical condition, with shrapnel injuries they sustained to the head, face and thorax area.

An unspecified number of people have sought assistance in hospitals in the western area as a result of their injuries.

Defense Secretary on Rebel Surrender

LD0512140388 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] In Argentina, it is democracy that has finally triumphed. This is the expression used by President Raul Alfonsin when he announced last night the surrender of the military entrenched in an ammunition depot, in Buenos Aires since Thursday. It was an unconditional surrender and this is what has surprised everybody. Some, in fact, believe there has been bargaining between the Army chief of staff and the rebels' leader. The future will tell, but the Argentine secretary of state for defense has a simpler explanation. Nicolas Poincare on behalf of France Info contacted him on the phone:

[Begin recording] [Secretary of State for Defense; name not given] I think they were hoping to obtain more support but did not get it and, on the other hand,

political and public opinion was against them. I believe they were deeply impressed by this. They had no support from [word indistinct] political personalities.

[Poincare] Was your government anxious? Were you worried in the last few hours?

[Secretary] Yes, a little, because whenever there is a situation like this, one is afraid. It is a totally abnormal situation and, naturally, this causes anxiety and worries; but every time the government has been firm, it has yielded results.

[Poincare] Will there be sanctions applied to the rebels?

[Secretary] Yes, and Colonel Seineldin has been imprisoned and will be brought before the military courts. [end recording]

Albatross Rebels 'Under Arrest'

PY0512151788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1400 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM)—San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Piotti has reported that members of the Albatross Commando of the Argentine Naval Prefecture who rebelled are under arrest and will be transferred to the Campo de Mayo jail.

The judge said this as he left the Arsenales 101 headquarters in Villa Martelli, where he questioned six military men about the incidents between policemen and civilians yesterday.

Guerrilla Brigade Claims Responsibility for Bomb

PY0512152388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINASin Spanish 1144 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (NA)—A self-styled Che Guevara Brigade [Brigada Che Guevara] has claimed responsibility for a bomb planted at the Army Supplies headquarters on 25 Mayo Street through a phone call to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS this morning.

A woman's voice read the following communique over the phone: The action at the Armed Forces' branch office on 129 25 Mayo Street is the Che Guevara Brigade's answer to the amnesty obtained by Seineldin, and a homage to those who fell in Villa Martelli.

After that terse communique was read, the caller hung up.

Bolivia

Bedregal Elected To Head Conference on Drugs

PY0212110988 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpts] Vienna, 26 Nov (EFE)—Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has been elected president of a United Nations conference that will try to reach an agreement on the struggle against illegal drug trafficking. The conference opened in Vienna on 25 November.

Bedregal has told EFE that the election of a Bolivian to preside over the conference "represents an acknowledgment of the efforts that Latin America, and especially the Bolivian Government, which has give priority to this task, is making in the struggle against drug trafficking." [passage omitted]

Bedregal said that the replacement of crops of toxic substances is taking place without the use of force—"We are absolutely opposed to the use of force"—and without using chemicals to eradicate coca crops in order "to avoid noxious effects." [passage omitted]

The Bolivian foreign minister said that Bolivia, which is proposing to the conference the implementation of an antinarcotics program similar to the one currently being implemented there, "is preparing to wage an all-out, long-term war on illegal drug trafficking activities through innovative legislation that has just been approved." [passage omitted]

In the past few years, morphine and cocaine consumption has increased 300 and 700 percent, respectively.

The profits yielded by drug trafficking activities, in which the drug trafficker's cost-profit ratio is 1 to 10,000, total $300 trillion [as published] yearly. [passage omitted]

Demonstration Announced at U.S. Embassy 9 Dec

PY0212125088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Federation of Bolivian Press Workers has released a circular note calling for a day-long vigil for sovereignty. According to the note, on Friday, 9 December, opposition bloc leaders and all citizens will gather in front of the U.S. Embassy located on Colon Street, from 1900 to the following day, Saturday, at 0500.

In this way, the note adds, we will show the entire world our disagreement with any overt or covert arrival of foreign troops in our country.

The note adds that the same day, the mining centers will sponsor a national radio network from 1230 to 1600 during which the people will express their repudiation of this, quote, trampling, unquote, of national sovereignty.

Brazil

Sarney Voices Solidarity With Alfonsin

PY0412201088 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1534 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Brasilia, 4 Dec (EFE)—President Jose Sarney today urged Latin America to defend democracy and voiced his hopes that the Argentine crisis will be solved peacefully. These hopes are contained in a letter addressed to Argentine President Raul Alfonsin sent through Thompson Flores, Brazilian ambassador to Buenos Aires.

Yesterday Sarney phoned Alfonsin to express the Brazilian people's solidarity and inform him that he is closely following developments in Argentina.

A Brazilian Government military minister today told the local media that the possibility of sending Brazilian troops to intervene in the Argentine crisis is out of the question.

The high-ranking military source said the Argentine military rebellion "is a domestic affair of that country" and recalled Brazil's tradition of respecting the "people's right to self-determination."

Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre, who has just returned from Peru, met with President Sarney this morning and will meet again with him this evening to discuss developments in the neighboring country.

Government To Review Foreign Debt Agreement

PY0312020288 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Dec 88 p 17

[By Beth Cataldo]

[Text] Brasilia—In New York, the Brazilian Government and the private creditor banks began to review the relending of resources deposited in the Central Bank in the creditors' accounts and the conversion of debt into investments—operations that are stipulated in the renegotiation agreement of the Brazilian foreign debt.

Sergio Amaral, Secretary of International Affairs of the Finance Ministry, and Arnim Lore, Director of the External Area of the Central Bank, traveled to New York for that purpose on the night of 30 November. The first meeting with the creditor banks was scheduled for 1 December.

The Brazilian negotiators were instructed to begin discussing with the creditors alternative formulas for reducing the country's outstanding foreign debt. Though this objective will demand prolonged efforts, the Brazilian Government is counting on the decisive support of Treasury secretary-designate, James Baker.

Regarding the operations of relending and debt conversion, the Brazilian negotiators went to New York to voice the Brazilian Government's concern over the impact of those operations on the monetary expansion (issuance of currency) next year. Amaral and Lore will present to the creditors the economic adjustment program drawn by the government's economic team, which calls for strict monetary control to contain inflation.

The relending operations totalling $1.7 billion scheduled for next year may well be reduced or even suspended as the result of the present negotiations. Doing so will require formal changes in the foreign debt rescheduling contracts signed this past September. As for the debt conversion into investments through the auction mechanism, the Brazilian Government on its own can change the conversion ceilings and the auction timetable. The agreement signed this past September, however, stipulates that $1.8 billion of loans to be made by the creditors should be converted into investments without the discounts to which such conversions are subject through the auction system.

* Majority on Government Performance:'Terrible'

33420007b Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese
30 Oct 88 p A-6

[Text] Two out of every three Brazilians in the country's major state capitals rate the performance of the Sarney administration as "terrible" (53 percent) or "bad" (12 percent). The administration was appraised as "fair" by 24 percent; only 5 percent called it "good" and 2 percent said it has been "excellent."

The majority (71 percent) considers that Sarney's teams' worst performance has been in the economic area. For 38 percent there is no field—not economic, or political, or social—that can be said to be its strongest suit.

These figures were obtained in a poll taken by DataFOLHA on 26 October among 5,400 residents of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza, Belem, and Brasilia.

In each city the population was stratified by geographic zone, the socioeconomic level of the region, sex, and age. The totals were weighted according to the importance of each population in the survey sample.

The percentage of the population that believes the Sarney Administration to be terrible has been growing since 1987. The rate in May of that year was 37 percent in the same 10 capital cities; by November it had risen to 40 percent. In March 1988 it reached 49 percent. It now stands at 53 percent.

In Sao Paulo the Sarney Administration managed to get an 82-percent good or excellent rating in March 1986 right after issuance of the decree that created the Cruzado Plan. Today that share has fallen to only 9 percent of city

residents, and the portion of the population that terms the performance as bad or terrible stands at 60 percent while 27 percent appraise the administration as fair.

The people of Rio de Janeiro are the ones who most strongly disapprove of the administration's performance: Bad or terrible ratings were given by 75 percent; only 4 percent rated it excellent or good, and 18 percent termed it fair.

It is in Belem that the poll found the lowest index of disapproval of Sarney. There, 10 percent give the administration an excellent or good rating, 55 percent consider it bad or terrible, and 32 percent give it fair marks.

In Belo Horizonte 65 percent find the Sarney administration bad or terrible, 22 percent think it has performed fairly well, and only 6 percent would rate it excellent or good.

In Curitiba, the "terrible" or "bad" index stands at 63 percent; 26 percent consider it fair, and 8 percent say excellent or good.

In Porto Alegre, the proportion of the sample that consider President Sarney's administration to be bad or terrible reaches the 70 percent level; another 23 percent think it is fair, and 5 percent believe it has been good or excellent.

In Salvador, 65 percent consider it bad or terrible, 26 percent fair, and 6 percent excellent or good.

In Recife, the percentage of those who found the government bad or terrible was 60 percent; fair was cited by 27 percent, and excellent or good by 7 percent.

In Fortaleza, 64 percent of the population believe the government is bad or terrible, 24 percent consider it fair, and 7 percent rate it as excellent or good.

In Brasilia, the percentage for bad or terrible was 58 percent; fair ratings were given by 30 percent, and excellent or good ratings by 7 percent.

The survey was a DataFOLHA project carried out under the direction of sociologist Antonio Manuel Teixeira Mendes with planning and analysis assistance by sociologist Gustavo Venturi. Wilson Aghanatios Chammas was responsible for coordinating the field work. The editors are responsible for developing the questions and interpreting the results.

Brizola Leading PDT Presidential Candidate

PY0512124088 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] A survey conducted by FOLHA in 10 capitals around Brazil shows PDT [Democratic Labor Party] President Leonel Brizola as the virtual presidential candidate for his party, and as the candidate preferred by 20 percent of the population among the "conventional" (actual party militants) candidates. When the names of television personality Silvio Santos, and industrialist Antonio Ermirio de Moraes were included, the results showed a technical standoff with 19 percent of the votes, just 1 percent behind Brizola.

The first such poll following the municipal elections on 15 November was conducted on 28-29 November. It shows that the virtual PT [Workers' Party] candidate, Luiz Ignacio da Silva (Lula) is the third preferred candidate with 14 percent of the votes when the names of Santos and de Moraes were included, and second with 17 percent when their names were not included. In the surveys conducted before 15 November, Lula never figured with more than 10 percent of the votes.

* Poll Shows Lead

33420007c Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Oct 88 p A- 6

[Text] If the presidential elections were held today, Leonel Brizola, the national president of the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party], would win the most votes in the 10 principal Brazilian state capital cities—20 percent of the total. In second place would be businessman and television host Silvio Santos, with 18 percent. This is technically a tie since the poll's margin of error is 3 percent one way or the other.

The survey, taken by DataFOLHA on 26 October among 5,400 people, indicated that Brizola's popularity has risen by 3 percent since the previous poll, conducted on 10 and 11 September in the same 10 cities. The two men were then tied at 17 percent.

Third place was held by Senator Mario Covas of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party], with 13 percent (he had 16 percent in the last poll). In fourth place was Federal Deputy Luis Inacio Lula da Silva (PT), with 9 percent. Sao Paulo Mayor Janio Quadros obtained 8 percent, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes (PMDB), 7 percent, and Senators Jarbas Passarinho (PDS) [Social Democratic Party], and Afonso Camargo (PTB) [Brazilian Labor Party], 3 percent and 1 percent, respectively. In the earlier poll Lula and Janio had 8 percent each, Ulysses, 7 percent, and Passarinho, 3 percent.

Seventeen percent did not express a preference in either poll, and 4 percent are still undecided. The undecided and those who did not choose any candidate made up 24 percent of the sample in the earlier survey, compared with 21 percent now.

Brizola's lead is safer in terms of spontaneously expressed voting intentions, when no names are suggested to the respondents. He won 14 percent of the votes, as against 5 percent for Deputy Paulo Maluf (PDS), who came in second. In the earlier poll, Brizola held 9 percent of the freely-expressed voting intentions and Maluf had 4 percent. Mario Covas got 3 percent and was tied with Ulysses Guimaraes, Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, and Lula. Janio

Quadros and Silvio Santos each obtained 2 percent. When no names were suggested to the respondents in the previous poll, the sum of the undecided and those who did not give any name reached 66 percent, a figure which fell to 52 percent in the latest survey.

Brizola wins in only 2 of the 10 state capitals surveyed: in Rio de Janeiro he obtains 46 percent of the votes (Silvio Santos has 8 percent and Janio Quadros, 7 percent) and in Porto Alegre, where he gets 54 percent and Silvio Santos has 13 percent.

In the previous poll Brizola had 44 percent in Porto Alegre, a number which represented the best showing made any anyone in the survey cities. In Rio de Janeiro he had 36 percent.

In Sao Paulo, Mario Covas has the lead with 24 percent and Brizola ranks fifth, with 7 percent. Silvio Santos, in second place, has 18 percent (he had 14 percent in the earlier poll); Lula has 11 percent; Janio Quadros has 10 percent, and Ulysses 6 percent.

Victory in the other seven capitals belongs to Silvio Santos, who won 20 percent of the votes in Belo Horizonte (where Lula has 14 percent), 26 percent in Curitiba (18 percent for Brizola), 23 percent in Salvador (15 percent for Brizola), 28 percent in Recife (Brizola and Ulysses each have 12 percent), 26 percent in Fortaleza (22 percent for Brizola) and 17 percent in Brasilia (12 percent for Brizola). His best performance, however, is in Belem, where he had 31 percent in the earlier poll and now shows up with 34 percent (15 percent for Passarinho).

In the weighted average of the 10 capitals, the PMDB and PT are the parties having the greatest preference, with 14 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

The PDT comes in third with 9 percent, followed by the PDS with 5 percent, the PFL [Liberal Front Party] with 3 percent, and the PSDB and PTB with 2 percent each. A party preference is still not expressed by 49 percent of voters.

Health Ministry Releases AIDS Figures

PY0312000888 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Summary] The national AIDS-control department of the Health Ministry has reported that the first AIDS case detected in Brazil was registered in December 1980 and that, consequently, the HIV virus was in Brazil already in 1970's. Thus far, 4,946 AIDS cases have been reported in Brazil. Of those 1,727 were detected this year, and 237 were detected in November.

* PRC Interested in Informatics Cooperation

33420007d Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Nov 88 p 25

[Text] A mission composed of six technical experts from the Ministry of Mechanical and Electronic Industry of the PRC arrives in Rio tonight. Headed by Vice Minister Zeng Peiyan, the group seeks to learn about Brazil's computer industry. According to Arthur Pereira Nunes, executive director of Abicomp, the association of market reserve companies, the purpose of the visit is to reach agreement on a technical exchange program between Chinese and Brazilians in the field of information science.

The Abicomp director expects interesting developments to result from cooperation between the domestic industry and the Chinese Government, especially in the areas of commercial, administrative, and financial management applications and in systems for processing high volumes of data.

During its 7 days in Brazil, the mission will visit the facilities of Cobra Computadores and Microlab in Rio. In Sao Paulo, it will see the Sistema, Elebra, Itautec, and Digilab factories.

The visit by the Chinese team has as its objective the expansion of its information on the Brazilian industry, which went to Beijing in 1984 to exhibit its products at China Conn, the PRC's computer technology fair. Wang Chun Xue, vice director of the Electronics Machinery Import and Export Company of China and a member of the group, was in Brazil 2 years ago as part of a World Bank mission.

Chile

Progression in Human Rights Said 'Positive'

PY0312165288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has deemed it very positive that the United Nations, for the first time in 15 years, has admitted that Chile has progressed in the field of human and political rights.

This is what Minister Errazuriz said about the UN resolution approved this week:

[Begin recording] For the first time in 15 years, the United Nations had a positive opinion about the Chilean situation regarding human and political rights.

I believe that although this recognition is not enough to please us entirely, because we are still being discriminated against, it stimulates us to continue working and to be proud of showing our true situation to the outside world. [end recording]

Minister Errazuriz made these remarks at the end of the ceremony celebrating the Foreign Ministry's 117th anniversary. On that occasion he pointed out the progress being experienced in our domestic [word indistinct] and the importance of making it known to the other countries.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] Today is an important day for us, not only because we are celebrating our anniversary, but also because we are living in a important time in which the Foreign Ministry is contributing to the modernization of the country and to making a positive image of Chile known abroad.

I believe our domestic situation has improved very much, and for this reason we must make it known outside the country. [end recording]

The foreign minister said the undeniable progress experienced in the country in the last few years stimulates all Foreign Ministry officials to proudly work harder for the improvement of our image abroad.

1989 Budget Approval Officially Announced

PY0212232988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Summary] Approval of the 1989 budget was officially disclosed through its publication in the last issue of the Official Gazette.

The budget estimates revenues at 1,510,964,000,000 pesos, and expenditures at 1,377,439,000,000 pesos. The budget represents an equivalent of $816 million [as heard].

Finance Minister Leaves for GATT Meeting

PY0512133288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi has departed for Montreal, Canada, to participate in the annual meeting of the GATT member countries.

At the meeting, the status of the round of multilateral trade negotiations, which began 2 years ago in Punta del Este, Uruguay, will be reviewed.

During the GATT meeting, which will end on 9 December, Hernan Buchi will meet with the U.S. and EEC ministers of commerce [as heard] and with the Japanese foreign minister to discuss Chilean exports, especially fruit exports to those countries.

* Constitutional Electoral Points Raised

33480045c Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 4

[Text] Several constitutional questions have recently arisen:

1. Who will name designated senators—the current president or the one who will assume office on 11 March 1990? (This question arises because Congress must also begin its function on that date.)

2. Who will designate the next Armed Forces commanders in chief and the Carabineros director—the current president or the next?

3. Do the restrictions established by the Constitution apply to candidates in this election or will they only apply to the next election? (The restrictions prohibit candidates from occupying ministries, mayoralties, union posts, or positions of confidence with this president for 2 years prior to the election.) It has also been established that candidates should be residents of the region they represent.

These points are being debated both by the government and the opposition.

* PCCh Observes Soviet Revolution Anniversary

33400045a Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p C-2

[Excerpts] Yesterday evening, the outlawed Communist Party commemorated the 71st anniversary of the Soviet revolution at the California Theater by supporting the proposal that the United Left coalition register as an official party and by announcing its upcoming 15th National Congress

The sole speaker was Jose Cademartori who, in a 20-page speech, strongly defended Soviet "perestroyka" before fellow party members and special guests, who included Anibal Palma, acting president of the United Left and president of the Social Democratic Radical Party.

Cademartori's speech was interrupted several times by numerous militants from the Communist Youth and from the Rodriguist Militia, who shouted "fighting, creating, militias with militias," along with other slogans. [passage omitted]

In addition to Anibal Palma, other politicians who attended the meeting were former Radical senator, Hugo Miranda; USOPO [expansion unknown] president Ramon Silva Ulloa; leader of the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left, Alvaro Ahumada; and former Popular Unity minister and current Socialist Party-Almeyda militant, Hernan del Canto.

Cademartori paid tribute to Manuel Rodriguez Popular Front members Cecilia Magni and Raul Pellegrin, who were linked to the extremist attack on Los Quenes and who were found dead in the Tinguiririca River. He recalled that Pellegrin was active in the Communist Youth before leaving the group due to doctrinary differences; he was later an "international combatant" in Nicaragua.

He exhorted the opposition to "move from words to deeds," so that "people will not just talk about social mobilization, but will jointly put it into action."

Cademartori criticized the current government several times and insisted that the triumph of the "no" vote in the plebiscite made the immediate resignation of the chief of state necessary. The Communist leader repeated the importance of mobilization by stating that "we have always emphasized the necessity of using all forms of combat when they are needed to advance the cause of the proletariat, with no exceptions."

Referring to the United Left, he approved the coalition's proposal to register as an official party. He said that an autonomous electoral presence of the left would improve its ability to exercise influence within the opposition.

The Communist leader also announced the 15th National [Communist Party] Congress which he said will be "real and not formal." All party cells would participate and each militant will be able to express his opinion and criticism of all that has happened since the last congress in 1969.

*** Bank Union Expresses Privatization Concerns**
33480045b Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Nov 88 p C-7

[Excerpt] The United Workers Union president for the State Bank, Lamberto Perez, stated that "there is much concern in our organization in view of the repeated announcements on the possible privatization of our bank."

Nevertheless, he stated that the workers were satisfied with the statements made Monday by the new president of the State Bank, Alvaro Bardon, in which he indicated that the bank would not go private. Perez added that "privatization for us means a reduction in work and worker layoffs." [passage omitted]

*** FPMR Funeral Practices Observed, Noted**
33480045d Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] There were "gunfire salutes" during the funeral of Raul Pellegrin, Commandant Jose Miguel. All in all, this is nothing new. Whenever a member of the Manuel Rodriguez Front [FPMR] dies, his colleagues accompany the family of the deceased, carrying flags, banners, and such. That isn't all. To make the funeral more significant, they carry weapons and fire several rounds. What is significant is that after such demonstrations of "force," no one is ever arrested, as if it were normal to carry weapons and to fire them in public places.

Colombia

Official Says M-19 Willing To Hold Dialogue
PA0212130088 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Bogota—The national government has admitted that the M-19 is perhaps the only insurgent group that lately has shown its tacit willingness to hold a dialogue aimed at achieving peace in the country.

Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for reconciliation and rehabilitation, has said that since President Barco revealed his peace initiative, the FARC, the ELN [Army of National Liberation], and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] have carried out several terrorist actions and have staged many ambushes, not only against military forces, but also against the civilian population.

In contrast with the actions of those groups, the M-19 has not carried out any offensive actions. This shows an attitude in support of a dialogue that could lead to peace agreements. Presidential adviser Pardo Rueda stressed that there are grounds for believing the M-19 statements that support peace.

M-19, FARC Reaffirm Peace Proposals
PA0512141888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Report by Pilar Calderon; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Calderon] Jacobo Arenas, representing the FARC General Secretariat, and M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro have sent two separate Christmas messages. In their messages, they reaffirmed support for the 15 November peace initiative proposed by Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran. Moreover, both rebel groups pledged to order their fronts to cease hostilities as soon as the government appoints a commission of five prominent citizens, as Leyva suggested. The commission is to make a 30-day study to determine if conditions exist for a direct dialogue between the government and the rebels.

[Arenas] "We pledge that we will order all FARC fronts to cease hostilities as soon as the president appoints a commission to verify if conditions exist for the new peace initiative."

[Pizarro] "Starting at the Christmas season, we want to express our willingness to participate in the cease-fire agreement that may arise from this initiative."

[Calderon] Although the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board had already sent a message to Leyva expressing support for his initiative, it did not pledged to cease hostilities, which—according to the proposal—would take place as soon as the commission was appointed.

[Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran] "I sincerely believe hostilities will cease if the decree were issued. I am convinced there is a real possibility to reach an agreement, but I do not see the government participating in its attainment. I do not know why."

[Calderon] Members of the government who were interviewed by this newscast said an official reply to Senator Leyva's proposal will be issued next week and that in the reply the president will refer to the FARC and M-19's statements on a cease-fire. Meanwhile, in Cartagena, President Barco said the following regarding the development of the peace process:

[Barco] "We thought the peace proposal was well thought out. There was never any reply to it. Instead, it was mocked."

* Antioquia Peasants Complain of FARC Tactics

33480044y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
22 Oct 88 p 6A

[Text] Peasants in Colombia—a predominantly agricultural country—have been forcibly converted in recent years to a sort of protective shield for guerrilla groups which operate in the country.

According to a letter sent by peasants from the town of Yondo in Antioquia, the 24th front of the FARC is in control of this region, and forces the inhabitants to obey its orders.

"We are tired of what the FARC leaders subject us to," the letter said. "They are the masters, and we don't work the land unless they allow it."

The subversives organize strikes and marches, and appear to have taken control of the education system, because in schools, according to the letter, children learn more about Marxism that about patriotic symbols. And to achieve this "basic" indoctrination, they have the help of professors who are guerrilla sympathizers.

"Our children are being filled with ideas and things that we don't want them to learn. The Catholic religion is forgotten and the newspaper VOZ is the obligatory Bible of all," continues the letter.

The Yondo peasants have been forced by means of threats to accept certain responsibilities with the FARC. "If we get some wood, they say we are building hideouts; if we harvest crops, we have to pay protection money [la vacuna]. If we refuse, we have to turn over our children."

Every day the guerrilla "harvests" its quota of provisions which the peasants must fill religiously. Moreover, truck or bus drivers and others who drive through the area are forced to transport these goods to wherever the FARC orders. The peasants must attend all meetings organized by the guerrillas and are obliged to "support them," meeting their quorum at the point of a gun.

The young people in the area are carefully studied and then organized by the commandantes. They are forced to attend closed guerrilla meetings and are gradually recruited. In the meantime, their parents must join what the FARC calls "grassroots committees, self-defense cells, and field groups," whose purpose, according to the letter, is "to act as a protective shield so that the peasants are the first to die; this has already happened."

In Yondo, those who inform the authorities pay with their lives, since the guerrillas execute "snitches" with little fanfare when they are discovered.

When marches are organized, everyone must participate, including the sick, as has happened in previous marches. "We had to stop our yucca, plantain, and corn harvests when they ordered. We had to abandon our lands and families; some even had to bring along those who were sick because we had to 'march.' And when we returned... you can imagine who had taken whatever we had left behind on our little farms."

The residents of Yondo are asking the government and, in particular, the Army, to pay more attention to what is happening in the region. They end the letter by saying that "whatever the cost, we are a group of peasants who want to defend ourselves."

* Official Position on Self-Defense Groups

33480044z Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
21 Oct 88 p 3A

[Text] The rise of self-defense groups began in this country in 1981, when the Death to Kidnappers [MAS] group appeared. The purpose of this group was to "cleanse" Colombia of communist elements and to purify society of delinquents and prostitutes.

The government of then president Belisario Betancur fought against MAS; nevertheless, it was surprising when Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez stated that several officers and noncommissioned officers were members of this shadowy group that had already made its presence felt.

After the appearance of MAS, other self-defense cells were formed, including The Black Hand, Love for Medellin, the American Anticommunist Alliance, and about 20 others which operated in key areas of the country.

Their radius of action has continued to spread in major cities such as Bogota, Cali and Medellin, but also in areas such as Huila, Caqueta, Arauca, Cordoba, and Uraba.

The country currently finds itself in the crossfire between two forces—the guerrillas and paramilitary groups.

The Link With Narcotrafficking

The vast majority of private justice movements or groups are tied to narcotrafficking and acquire their money from their close relationships with trafficking kingpins.

On several occasions, the assassinations committed by these groups are at the direction of powerful narcotraffickers who believe their interests to be affected in one way or another.

The money that they have acquired through trafficking has allowed these so-called "hired assassins" to operate sophisticated assassination training schools to intimidate those who oppose the Cali and Medellin cartels and those who condemn the damage done to Colombian society by traffickers.

Ghost Groups

EL SIGLO consulted advisors in the presidential council for rehabilitation, normalization and pacification affairs, who stated that paramilitary groups are nonexistent; according to the advisors, this is why the government has never tried to have a dialogue or to negotiate with the groups.

While it is certain that these groups originally began as cells with an ultraright political orientation, they have moved to common crime and assassination, and their existence has turned into a good, economical business.

Because of their ultraright orientation, these ghost groups, as the government calls them, seek to "cleanse" every leftist element that appears in their way, to the point that the disappearance of most Patriotic Union militants, as well as the assassination of [Patriotic Union] leader Jaime Pardo Leal has been attributed to them.

The presidential council told EL SIGLO that the government must attack the paramilitary groups through all means available in order to dissuade them from common crime, because this is how one confronts guerrillas.

140 Paramilitary Groups

The topic of private justice groups came to the fore again last Wednesday night during the Senate debate through the efforts of Patriotic Union members; Justice and Government Ministers Guillermo Plazas Alcid and Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, respectively, spoke.

During the debate, Gaviria Trujillo repeated his statement made one year ago in the House of Representatives that there are 140 paramilitary groups in the country. But this time the minister in charge of political matters stated that the government has disbanded a total of 17 cells during the past 12 months, through operations carried out by state security forces.

At the same time, Cesar Gaviria energetically defended the Armed Forces and warned that at no time had the executive branch sponsored or approved of the existence of these organizations.

Nevertheless, in spite of Gaviria Trujillo's statements, Presidential Council Advisor Ricardo Santamaria told EL SIGLO that there are several military personnel who have been prosecuted because their participation in this type of ultraright group has been proven.

Santamaria stated that because of this, a general statement saying that all Armed Forces members approve of this type or organization cannot be made. He further stated that the government has not facilitated the investigations of uniformed personnel who have been prosecuted for this matter.

A Difficult Problem To Stop

Minister and Council Advisor Ricardo Santamaria concludes that, according to his analysis, self-defense groups will continue to exist while the activity of narcotraffickers and leftist guerrillas progresses.

The government does not plan to have a dialogue with these "ghost" groups because they are delinquents; therefore, it can be said that Colombia must continue to tolerate the influence of two forces—that of guerrillas and that of private justice groups.

Peru

Falling Rocks Blamed for Cusco Derailment

PY0312031888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Tourism Deputy Minister Alfonso Salcedo Rubio today said the derailment of the train in Cusco was due to rocks falling onto the train. He added that according to the first reports from Cusco, the falling rocks destroyed the train, and only 5 minutes before, another train, five cars long, passed through the same spot without problems.

The geographical and other natural conditions of the area show that the whole affair was caused by falling rocks that hit one of the railroad cars, Salcedo said.

Salcedo added that the regrettable accident that caused the death of the wives of Cusco Mayor Carlos Chacon Galindo and Jersey City Mayor Anthony Cuzzi should not affect Peru's tourism image.

Salcedo said the railroad is routinely maintained without problems, but he did not rule out the possibility that the accident could have been caused by sabotage or by subversive agents. Salcedo added that the government is investigating, but his information is that the accident was caused by falling rock.

Evidence of Attack Cited

PY0312160088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Cusco Mayor Carlos Chacon Galindo has been hospitalized at the Police Hospital. He was brought to the capital at noon today. Deputy Ezequiel Quispe said the mayor's condition is very serious.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Has any progress been made in the investigation into yesterday's incident? Was it an attack or an accident?

[Quispe] I must say there is already evidence that it was an attack. This has already been verified. A steel plate was placed on the tracks about 5 km from Cusco, in the area of (Tica Tica). This caused the train to derail and fall down a cliff, causing deaths that have been reported. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Fernandez Congratulates Perez on Victory

PA0512022588 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 0115 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Statement by the Social Christian Party, COPEI, presidential candidate Eduardo Fernandez at COPEI headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] I want to make a statement to all Venezuelans. I accept, support, and defend the expression of the Venezuelan people's will. I congratulate all Venezuela. Today more than ever, I am proud to be Venezuelan and I am more committed to working for Venezuela.

Although the Supreme Electoral Council has only issued one partial bulletin, I urge all Venezuelans to accept the results of the elections. I also invite my fellow party members and those who represent my presidential candidacy at the voting tables to be watchful until the end. The reports I have received on the voting trend currently indicate that we have obtained the highest number of votes in the history of COPEI. [applause] I want to express my broadest, cordial, and Venezuelan congratulations to the President-elect, Mr Carlos Andres Perez. I offer him the cooperation of the splendid opposition that we are going to wage against his administration. It will be a constructive opposition that will always place Venezuela's interests above any partisan interest.

I want to thank all Venezuelans who had confidence in me. Nearly 40 percent of the voters, nearly 3 million Venezuelans, had confidence in me. I not only thank them but I promise them that I will not abandon them. I will continue struggling. Tomorrow I will take over as secretary general of the party to lead the country in the coming phases. [applause, shouting]

I also want to state that tomorrow we will begin our work to serve Venezuela and to win Venezuela's trust so as to govern it in 1994. I personally have to express thanks to all those who served me with dignity and generosity in this struggle. I raised a banner of change. That banner continues to be very relevant. Today, old politics had its last victory. In December 1994, we will have the first victory of the new democracy. [applause, shouting]

I extend my gratitude to all Venezuelans, to the men and women, young and old, who throughout the country have helped me in this struggle. I feel very moved by the clear, noble, and honest support you have given me. I thank all of you. I thank my wife and children. I thank my party, COPEI. I am proud to be a member, and now more than ever I feel more obliged to serve the party. We will be around for a long time. Now is when the party has to grow to serve Venezuela in unity and harmony. [applause]

I greet all Venezuelans with great cordiality. I greet those who gave me their vote and confidence and those who voted for other candidates and tickets. I extend my hand as a friend to all. I said in the campaign that Venezuela's interests are above all partisan considerations. This entails an obligation. Venezuela's problems are very serious. Let us hope that the president of the Republic, the president-elect, will call for national unity. COPEI's cooperation will not be absent so as to add its efforts to resolve the great national problems. The cooperation of our splendid opposition will also not be absent. I have a commitment with the Venezuelan poor. When Mari Isabel [Fernandez' wife] and I visited poor neighborhoods, both of us and the entire party promised to struggle for social injustice. I maintain that struggle, that commitment with the poor more than ever today.

Venezuelans, today I want to greet all of you. I ask God to bless all Venezuelans. I ask God to help us, to guide us, and to be with us in the coming difficult days. I ask God to enlighten the president-elect. I ask my fellow party members to be watchful until all the electoral certificates are signed. We have obtained the highest number of votes in our party's history. We have received the trust of a very high percentage of Venezuelans who supported us. I personally tell the country that I will not begin the struggle again tomorrow; I am beginning it immediately. I am not interrupting it for a single minute. Tomorrow I take over as secretary general and I will be in charge of leading the recovery of power, serving Venezuela in the coming years. I am committed to winning the presidency in 1994 so as to serve all Venezuelans.

Lusinchi on Elections, Events in Argentina

PA0412143388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1228 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Interview with President Jaime Lusinchi by unidentified reporters at Divino Pastor School, El Marques, Caracas—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Lusinchi] Those who have been calling for absenteeism claim they are participating in politics and have political aspirations. I do not know how their

aspirations can be realized. In Venezuela, things will be decided through elections, and I do not see how anyone expecting political relevance and importance in Venezuela may achieve that without votes. So I believe this is a serious error. Therefore, I tell those who are thinking about not voting today they are wasting their time and no one will notice their absence. Their satisfaction will be individual and very unnoticeable; it will be something of no importance.

It has always been like that. Absenteeism in Venezuela has been minimal. Many people who do not vote fail to do so not purposely but because they have changed their residence and did not register the change with the Electoral Council. The no-vote philosophy is minimal in our country.

[Reporter] Regarding democracy in Argentina, a terrible situation has arisen.

[Lusinchi] A colleague of yours asked me a few minutes ago about my opinion on the Argentine situation. I told him we are concerned about what was happening there and that I called President Alfonsin last night and talked with him. He emphatically told me he has the situation under control. His words satisfied me, and I am conveying this to the country through you, the journalists. Venezuela's message for the Argentine people is that violence and self-centeredness [personalismo] are not to be trusted. They do not resolve a thing. The future of our countries is in the democratic exercise of the people's will—through votes. [passage omitted]

Carlos Perez Comments on Economy, Debt

PA0512021888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1032 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Caracas, 3 Dec (EFE)—Presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez has told EFE he would not be like Peruvian President Alan Garcia, a solitary "gladiator" against the foreign debt, even though he is willing to go along if a group of nations decides to limit their foreign debt payments.

During an exclusive interview with EFE, the Democratic Action, a social democratic party, candidate and favorite to win the elections Sunday also proposed an economic integration between Mexico and Venezuela—like the one launched between Brazil and Argentina.

Perez, who believes he will win the elections, talked about Venezuela's foreign debt—the fourth largest in Latin America with a balance of $35 billion—and "categorically" asserted that he will not become "a solitary gladiator who faces the financial system alone," like Alan Garcia.

However, "We will have to limit foreign debt payments because we cannot continue to pay them at the rate that we do now," he asserted.

The politician, who was president of Venezuela between 1974 and 1979, said he supports "every effort" that seeks an increase in Latin America's integration.

"I believe it is now Mexico's and Venezuela's turn to begin a process like the one launched by Brazil and Argentina," he announced. [passage omitted]

Referring to his country's internal problems, Perez proposed "harmonious development" that would bring prosperity to the countryside and revert the migration of people to big cities, which created the cities' slums.

He stated his "satisfaction" with the results of his decision to nationalize the country's oil industry in 1976, but admitted that there is still a problem concerning the distribution of that income, even though it has allowed a large increase in the country's literacy, health, and education levels. [passage omitted]

However, he recognized that his previous administration and the one he expects to begin in 1989 will be "different."

He states that he now has more experience and his country has less economic resources and more human resources.

"We cannot count on the credit that we could easily get in the past from international banks that abounded in dollars; but we have a chance of getting foreign investments in amounts that will fully take the place of that credit," he predicted. [passage omitted]

Suriname

Talks With Second Chamber Said 'Pleasant'

FL0212172688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon said that the discussions between the Front [Front for Democracy and development] leaders and the permanent Second Chamber Commission for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation were (?quiet), pleasant, and clarifying. Lachmon is of the opinion that the Dutch Parliament must be well informed about the situation in Suriname. Through this, it will be able to react better to proposals submitted by the Dutch Government regarding Suriname.

The Second Chamber members, (Harry Art) and [name indistinct], are of the opinion that the results of the discussions are positive. Both parliamentarians are in the permanent commission. Both (Art) and [name indistinct] have announced that they will vote in favor of the 200 million guilders which has to be given to Suriname in 1989. The question regarding the treaty money which has to be given to Suriname before 1989 will be discussed in the Second Chamber within a short time.

Labor Party: Expand Economic Relations
FL0212185688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The Dutch Labor Party has submitted a motion in the Dutch Second Chamber calling on the government to analyze the posibilities to expand economic relations with Suriname. (Arthur Marcus), Labor Party representative in the Dutch Parliament has said that the relations between Holland and Suriname must be intensified.

According to (Marcus), the development treaty alone is a sufficient base for econmic relations. He is in favor of strengthening relations with the private sector of Suriname. The Dutch Labor Party [words indistinct] on Suriname's [word indistinct] on the list of [word indistinct] which qualify for export credit facility.

Military Authority Strips Major of Duties
FL0312145588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Major (Claude Nadar) has been stripped from all his duties. The military authority took this position following indications which pointed to (Nadar's) [words indistinct]. The spokesman for the military authority told our newsroom this morning that, at the moment, more information surrounding the stripping of (Nadar) couldn't be given.

The military police are currently investigating the matter.